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Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Text' of ACC Foreign Ministers' Statement

JN0504121890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1045 GMT GMT 5 Apr 90

["Text" of statement issued by the Arab Cooperation Council foreign ministers "at the conclusion of their extraordinary meeting in Amman yesterday"—read by announcer]

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] member states held an extraordinary meeting in Amman on 4 April 1990 to discuss the challenges facing the ACC states, in particular the Arab nation, in the light of the recent escalation of the fabricated campaign against Iraq. Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minster, presented a full documented explanation of the various aspects of that campaign and what it might lead to in terms of aggressive acts against Iraq. He presented all the facts related to the subject and described how Iraq was seeking to obtain technical materials through a normal, small commercial deal and in a correct peaceful way for use in a university scientific program.

The documents presented by sisterly Iraq made it clear that the American authorities, through coordination with the British authorities and by means of infiltrating an FBI agent into the American company manufacturing these materials, channeled the process for intelligence purposes with the aim of luring and implicating the competent Iraqi quarters, and using this for tendentious political aims. These quarters have also explained that they abided by their original order which was dedicated for university scientific purposes.

The ministers reviewed the media campaigns and the hostile and tendentious political statements against Iraq whether regarding the execution of a spy convicted of dealing with Israel or the recent campaign, which are aimed at paving the way for another aggression against Iraq similar to the 1981 Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations devoted to peaceful purposes—an aggression which was unanimously condemned by the UN Security Council in its Resolution No. 487 in 1981. Moreover, this campaign is aimed at distracting attention from Israel's suppression of the Palestinian Arab people's intifadah, consecrating its occupation of the occupied Arab lands, and continuing its obstruction of efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace.

The ministers stressed that the national security of sisterly Iraq is a basic part of the pan-Arab security and that the ACC states and the Arab nation are committed to defend Iraq against any aggression or threat to which it might be exposed. They emphasized their full solidarity with Iraq in its firm confrontation of the baseless allegations and slanders, and they called for ending them.

The ministers expressed their complete adherence to the right of Iraq and of all the Arab countries to economic development and scientific and technological progress, asserting that the capabilities of Iraq and any other Arab country are devoted to legitimate self-defense against any aggression, and are not intended to threaten others or commit aggression.

The ministers drew attention to the fact that this campaign aims, among other things, at dealing a blow to the recently resumed Arab-European dialogue and harming the Arab-European historical relations, particularly in light of the positive European positions toward the Palestine question. They called on the friendly European states to be alert to that and refrain from adopting whatever might undermine these relations or hamper their growth, stressing that common interest requires increasing cooperation between both sides.

The ACC ministers affirmed that their states, which are signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, work continuously to turn the Middle East into an area free of nuclear arms. They urged the international community to force Israel to submit to the international will, join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and place its nuclear installations under international supervision and guarantees according to Security Council Resolution No. 487.

The ministers also expressed their conviction that, in the interest of international and regional security, any viable and effective international solution to the issues related to the proliferation of nuclear arms must be based on the comprehensive banning of all weapons and systems of mass destruction whether they are nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons. The ministers affirmed that the nuclear, chemical, and intelligence threat to which the Arab nation is being exposedmakes it necessary for it to defend itself, and that easing tension calls for comprehensive abidance by international charters.

In another development, the ministers recalled the decision adopted by the ACC second summit held in Amman in February 1990 regarding the Jewish emigration from the USSR and Eastern Europe, affirming their countries' opposition to this emigration aimed at settling the new emigrants in the Arab territory occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, as well as at expelling the Palestinians from their territory.

Finally, the ACC ministers were unanimous that the challenges facing the Arab nation, including this campaign against Iraq, together with the constant Israeli threat to Jordan, require the Arab nation to exercise the highest degree of caution and vigilance and require a united Arab stance to protect the land and legitimate Arab interests.

The ACC ministers also decided to continue to follow up the situation and agreed on certain steps in this regard.

Foreign Ministers Leave Amman for Rabat Meeting

JN0504125290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] left Amman for Rabat at noon today to participate in the meetings of the Jerusalem Committee, which begin today with the attendance of several Arab and Islamic countries. The committee will discuss a number of topics, especially the U.S. Senate resolution acknowledging Jerusalem as a unified city and capital of Israel, the danger of emigration of Jews from the USSR and East European countries to the city of Jerusalem and the occupied Arab territories, and ways to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian Arab people on their land against aggressive and expansionist schemes.

Saudi Minister Arrives in Rabat

LD0504145590 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Excerpt] The meetings of the emergency session of the Jerusalem Committee start tomorrow. The delegations of the participating countries have started to arrive in Morocco. This morning His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Rabat.

At Rabat-Sale Airport, the Saudi foreign minister made a statement about his country's participation in the meetings of the Jerusalem Committee and also about his participation in the meeting of the foreign ministers of the tripartite committee delegated to solve the Lebanese crisis:

[Begin al-Faysal recording] Concerning the meeting of the Jerusalem Committee, His Majesty King Hassan II, chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, considered that now is the time for this committee to discuss this matter.

As you know, Jerusalem is the principal issue of the Islamic nation and is the center of the conflict with Israel. In the recent period, especially after the emigration of the Jews from the Soviet Union and East Europe to the occupied Arab territories, there is a new danger threatening Jerusalem. The Israeli policy is to Judaize the city, and it declared it the permanent capital of Israel. This requires the Islamic countries, behind the leadership of the Jerusalem Committee, to adopt the necessary measures to preserve this sacred city.

Concerning the tripartite committee, we previously announced through brother Dr. Abdellatif Filali that following consultations among our leaders it was considered better to discuss these new conditions in the Lebanese arena. We will discuss the situation in Lebanon, and this is what the committee will do during this session, God willing. [end recording] [passage omitted]

ICO's Al-Gabid Arrives

LD0504225390 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Dr. Hamed al-Gabid, Islamic Conference Organization secretary general, arrived today in Morocco from Jiddah to attend the emergency meeting of the Jerusalem Committee, which is to be held tomorrow in Rabat. Dr. Hamed al-Gabid made a statement to us on his arrival at the Mohamed V International Airport in Casablanca in which he stressed the importance of convening this meeting. He pointed out that it takes place at an important phase in the history of the struggle against Zionist expansion and settlement in the holy lands. It comes in response to the appeal of his majesty, who is chairman of the committee, to hold it during these very conditions. He said the committee will discuss the issue of emigration of Soviet Jews to the Palestinian occupied territories, its dangers, and developments on the scene, such as the recent decision by the U.S. Senate to consider Jerusalem the capital of Israel.

Other Foreign Ministers Arrive

LD0504224390 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Tomorrow Rabat will host the meetings of the emergency session of the Jerusalem Committee. Member-delegations of the committee started arriving in our country this morning.

In this context, the following arrived this afternoon at Rabat-Sale International Airport: the Algerian foreign minister, Sid Ahmed Ghazali; the foreign ministers of Senegal and Guinea, Sedina Oumar Sy and Jean Traore, respectively; the Nigerian secretary of state in charge of cooperation, Isaka Dimbala; the Syrian foreign minister, Faruq al-Shar'; and the foreign minister of Pakistan, Sahabzada Yakub Khan. The foreign ministers of Iraq and Jordan, Messrs Tariq Aziz and Marwan al-Qasim, have also arrived.

All these ministers and the delegations accompanying them have been welcomed by Mr. Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and a number of ambassadors accredited to Rabat.

[Rabat MAP in Arabic at 1530 GMT on 5 March reports that Suhayl al-Shammas, secretary general of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, arrived in Morocco on 5 April with deputies Nasri al-M'aluf, Michel Sasi, and George Sa'adah to participate in the Jerusalem Committee's work. Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic at 1600 GMT on 5 April reports that Anisul Islam Mahmud, foreign minister of Bangladesh, arrived in Morocco the morning of 5 April to attend the Jerusalem Committee emergency meeting.]

Foreign Ministers Comment

JN0504100090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5-6 Apr 90 pp 1, 5

[By Maryam Shahin with agency dispatches]

[Text] Amman—The foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) Wednesday began an emergency meeting to discuss Arab national security and support for Iraq in what is seen as a Western campaign against Baghdad.

Also discussed were Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and the American senate's acknowledgement of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

The ministers, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid of Egypt, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani of North Yemen, Tariq 'Aziz of Iraq, and Marwan al-Qasim, the host, held two sessions Wednesday and are expected to hold a final session Thursday morning. No immediate explanation was available for the extentsion of the meeting, which was originally scheduled to last one day. Informed sources said the ministers would fly to Cairo later Thursday and proceed to Morocco to attend a meeting of the Jerusalem Committee.

'Aziz told the press that he had called for an emergency meeting of foreign ministers of the 22-member Arab League to discuss a possible Israeli assault on Iraq.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's warning on Monday that Iraq had binary chemical weapons and would use them to retaliate for any Israeli attack on Iraqi territory was followed Tuesday by Israel's launch of a space satellite.

"Israel has maintained military and industrial superiority in the region for a long time and now wants to attack the Iraqi industrial and scientific sites to maintain the balance of power, which has changed," 'Aziz told reporters on the fringes of the meeting.

"Israel has always been the aggressor," he said and noted that the Jewish state had not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which Iraq has signed.

"Iraq now has the means to confront Israel, but what it needs is Arab support to face the challenge of the aggressor," he said.

Al-Qasim told reporters that Jordan stood firmly behind Iraq and that "the minimum Jordan would do is come to Iraq's side in case it is attacked." He also said that Iraq had every right to defend itself and "develop science and technology to improve its defence capabilities."

'Aziz said the "Western media attacks against Iraq only confirms that validity of Iraq's position."

The support that the Arab media have extended to Iraq, he said, "is an indication of the Arab Nation's support for Iraq."

'Aziz said the United States, Britain, and Israel had mounted a campaign against Iraq to discredit its international image and isolate it in preparation for Israeli raids on Iraqi targets.

"President Saddam Husayn has made it clear that if Israel wants to attack our scientific and industrial complexes or any part of Iraq, the Iraqi retaliation will be strong enough to give them a hard lesson. We have the will to do that and we have the capability," he said.

'Aziz said that when Israel was sure its military edge over the Arabs was intact it would continue to block peace efforts.

"Israel is not going to yield to international pressure to reach a just and open peace with the Arabs. The main target is to keep the occupation and deny Arab rights," he added.

On Israel's satellite launch, 'Aziz said he was surprised the West never criticised Israel's technological accomplishments.

"When an Arab country achieves a similar achievement then the whole fuss comes, the comments, suspicions and attempts to discredit the image of (that) Arab country," he said.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Majid told reporters at the airport that the ACC meeting would reaffirm Arab solidarity with Iraq against he "malicious campaign" waged by Israel, the United States, and Britain.

Arab League Council Assails Anti-Iraq 'Campaign'

LD0504161190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1323 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Tunis, April 5 (KUNA)—The Arab League Council Thursday started here an extraordinary session at the level of permanent delegates to discuss external threats against Iraq. Meeting at a request from Iraq, the council session was attended by secretary general Chadli Klibi and PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani.

In his inaugural address, Klibi said the campaign by Britain and the U.S. against Iraq was exaggerated and aimed at preparing the Western public opinion to accept a potential Israeli aggression on Iraq for alleged acquistion of weapons of mass destruction.

The league secretary questioned the West's silence over Israel's acquistion of nuclear technology with assistance from the U.S. and recalled that Israel was the first to introduce into the area weapons of mass destruction.

Klibi referred to the recent test-firing by the Zionist entity of the Jericho 3 intercontinental ballistic missile, with a 6,000 kilometer range, Israel's continued refusal to sign the international Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and Tel Aviv's rejection to open its nuclear facilities at Demona in the Negev Desert to international inspection by the Atomic Energy Agency, as Iraq did.

Another aim of the campaign against Iraq, according to the league chief is to undermine Arab relations with the European and other Western groups.

Klibi suggested that the International Atomic Energy Agency undertakes an investigation to assure the Middle East region is free of nuclear weapons and cautioned that the league considers the campaign against Iraq a sort of political blackmail in prelude for a military attack in contravention of international laws.

More on Arab League's Reaction

LD0504190790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] A statement issued this afternoon following this emergency meeting of the Arab League Council held in Tunis this morning, affirmed that the campaigns and statements emanating from official U.S., British, and Israeli circles constitute a grave offense and a serious threat to a fraternal Arab country and member of the Arab League. Such campaigns should rather have been directed against Israel, which has nuclear and chemical weapons and is constantly threatening the security and the safety of Arab countries.

The council urges the international community to work in order to compel Israel to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and bring its nuclear weapons under the control and the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Authority.

The council issues a reminder on UN Security Council resolution 487 of 1981, which condemned Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations.

The council reaffirmed, on the other hand, Iraq's right to possess means for scientific and technological progress within the rights of sovereignty and international law, and condemned any attempt to deprive any Arab country of such a natural right.

The council reiterated in its statement its adherence to the Arab League's charter and the joint Arab defence treaty which have unambiguously pointed out that any aggression against any Arab country is aggression against all Arab League member countries. It warned, furthermore, Israel and all others against carrying out any aggressive act against Iraq under whatever pretext, pointing to the inalienable and absolute right of Iraq and other Arab countries to take the necessary measures to defend themselves and their security and sovereignty.

The council pointed out that one of the aims of the anti-Iraqi campaigns is to divert attention from Israel's daily crimes against the Palestinian people and its brave intifadah, and also from the conspiracy to relocate Soviet Jews in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories.

The council heard, at this meeting, a report presented by the head of the delegation of the Iraqi Republic in which he pointed out, citing documents and evidence, that Iraq's endeavor to acquire electric capacitors was carried out through legitimate means for use at the University of Technology of Iraq for a scientific program. Moreover, the Iraqi authorities concerned did not contravene the principles of international dealings whereas the U.S. authorities, in coordination with the British authorities, have transformed such a normal act into an intelligence operation to discredit Iraq.

The council affirmed anew that the Arab League member countries must exert all efforts to prevent the harming of Arab-European relations, which have witnessed positive development lately.

'Text' of Arab League Statement

JN0504212490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Tunis, 5 Apr (INA)—The Arab League Council has warned the Zionist entity or any other party against carrying out any act of aggression against Iraq on any pretext.

At the conclusion of its emergency session here today, the Arab League Council reiterated its adherence to the Collective Arab Defense Pact, which stipulates that any aggression against any Arab state is an aggression against all Arab states. [passage omitted]

The following is the text of the Arab League Council's statement:

The Arab League Council held an emergency meeting on Thursday, 5 April 1990, to discuss the tendentious accusations and the slander campaign launched by official news media in the United States and Britain and the Israeli threats to the Republic of Iraq. The Council heard a report by the head of the Republic of Iraq's delegation. The report provided documents and proof that Iraq's endeavor to obtain high-powered electrical capacitors took place through standard procedures, that they were to be used by the University of Technology in Iraq in a scientific program, and that the concerned Iraqi parties have not violated internationally acceptable rules. Through coordination with the British authorities and a FBI agent within the U.S. company that produces the aforementioned material, however, the U.S. authorities have managed to turn this ordinary action into an intelligence operation with the objective of involving the concerned Iraqi authorities and exploiting the issue politically against Iraq. Moreover, the concerned Iraqi authorities have proved that they adhered to their orginal request, which was related to scientific purposes at the University of Technology.

The council also viewed with extreme concern the political statements and the unjust hostile and tendentious media campaign against Iraq, whether concerning the execution of a spy who was proved to be spying for Israel, or to the recent case, which has been premeditatedly fabricated and blown out of proportion. The council also reiterated the Arab League member states' concern to make every effort to avoid damaging Arab-Euro relations, which have recently witnessed positive developments.

The council strongly denounced attempts to turn the purchase of an ordinary and small piece of equipment to be used for scientific purposes into a political case to harm a fraternal country, despite the soundness of the Iraqi position. The council blamed the U.S. and British authorities and held them responsible.

The Council also called on the international community to force Israel to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to place its nuclear installations under the supervision and control of the International Atomic Energy Authority. In this regard, the council cited UN Security Council Resolution No. 487 of 1981, which condemned the Israeli attack on Iraq's nuclear installations.

The council reaffirmed Iraq's natural right to possess the means of scientific and technological progress within the framework of the rights of sovereignty and international law, and denounced any attempts to deny any Arab country this natural right.

The council noted that one of the aims of the anti-Iraq campaign is to divert attention from the daily crimes Israel continues to commit against the Palestinians and their brave intifadah, and also from the plot of Soviet Jewish emigration to Palestine and the occupied Arab territories.

The council voiced strong condemnation of the campaigns and statements by British, U.S., and Israeli official circles and media, which constitute a serious offense and a dire threat to a sisterly Arab state and member of the League of Arab States, because such campaigns should have been aimed at Israel, which possesses nuclear and chemical weapons and which continues to threaten the Arab states' peace and security.

The council reiterated the provisions of the Arab League Charter and the Collective Arab Defense Pact, which clearly state that any aggression against any Arab state is considered aggression against all Arab League members. The council warned Israel and any other party against committing aggression against Iraq under any pretext, emphasizing the firm and absolute right of Iraq and the Arab states to retaliate against any aggression with any means they deem proper to defend themselves, their security, and sovereignty.

Kuwaiti Paper Urges End to Syria-Iraq Rift

LD0604080490 Kuwait KUNA in English 0700 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Kuwait, April 6 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti newspaper Friday saw a spark of hope in Syria's proclaimed support for Iraq against Israeli threats and said any common Arab stance must begin with ending the longstanding feud between Damascus and Baghdad.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM daily admitted, however, that the rift between the two Arab countries is so deep but pointed out that recent Israeli threats against Iraq were too perilous to ignore.

Therefore, a common Arab stance in the face of those threats and their potential consequences cannot be postponed or dealt lightly with, the paper said in a frontpage editorial.

Referring to the fact that the Arab world has long been polarized between the Soviet Union and the United States, the paper said: "Now that the Soviets no longer have their Arabs, the Americans need not have theirs ... and thus an historic opportunity arises for Arabs to be their own."

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM stressed that now is the time for Arabs to close ranks as they face yet a fresh Israeli threat, "the most serious challenge since Israel invaded Lebanon eight years ago."

Palestinian Affairs

Call To Attack U.S. Interests, Close Embassies

JN0504184890 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] The Martyr Khalid 'Akar Organization, the Martyr Zuhayr Muhsin Organization, and the Direct Revenge Group [majmu'at al-intiqam al-mubashir] have addressed a statement to world opinion on the U.S. Senate's recognition of the Israeli Knesset's annexation of Jerusalem and making it the capital of the Zionist entity.

The statement said: O masses of our Palestinian people. We have always affirmed and still affirm that U.S. imperialism is the arch-Satan, that it pursues a policy of global arrogance and supports the Zionist Movement and Arab reactionary elements. It works painstakingly to strike at the national and pan-Arab liberation movements in the Arab homeland, particularly Syria, Libya, and the genuine revolutionary factions that are struggling in the Palestinian and Lebanese arenas.

Today, the United States has taken another hostile stand against our people with the U.S. Senate resolution recognizing the Zionist Knesset's annexation of the city of Jerusalem and making it the capital of the Zionist entity, thus ignoring the Palestinian Arab people's historical rights.

This policy is not a new development but an ugly imperialist policy that the United States has been practicing for decades. This step is a blow to the 'Arafat policy that is gambling on the United States finding a solution to the Palestinian problem.

We ask those who deviate to stop contacts with the U.S. Administration and appeal to Arab liberation movements and Arab masses to close down U.S. embassies and attack U.S. interests in all parts of the Arab homeland—together on the road to liberating the land and man.

Group Denounces Concessions

JN0504194690 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] The Direct Revenge Organization for the Liberation of Palestine [munazzamat al-intiqam al-mubashir li tahrir filastin] has addressed a memorandum from the city of Nabulus, the mountain of fire, to Mr. Khalid al-Fahum, the [former] Palestine National Council

speaker, the leadership of the Palestine National Salvation Front, and to Palestinian national figures, on the current Palestinian situation and developments. The organization denounced the path of concessions and selling out of the legitimate Palestinian people's rights that the dominant PLO leadership has been following for years.

The memorandum also denounced this leadership's attempts to exploit the intifadah and claim for itself the daily heroic deeds of the Palestinian people. The memorandum also condemned contacts that certain Palestinian figures inside the occupied homeland—such as Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, Hanna Sinyurah, Sa'id Kan'an, Ilyas Frayj, Faysal al-Husayni, Sari Nusaybah, and Shahir Sa'd—are holding with Zionist figures in Safad, Haifa, Tel Aviv, and Jerusalem. These contacts are being held while the Zionist and U.S. machine of tyranny is carrying out a mass killing of our people and arresting thousands of strugglers, confiscating land, and establishing settlements at the expense of the Arab people and Palestinian Arab territory.

The memorandum asked national and pan-Arab decisionmakers to take a historic militant stand that could constitute a qualitative step in the struggle of the Palestinians in Palestine toward foiling all treasonous projects and initiatives. The memorandum emphasized the need to adhere to armed struggle as the only means of liberating Palestine.

'Unlimited' U.S. Support for Israel Condemned

JN0504073590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brothers on the path of the revolution and liberation: U.S. officials, particularly President George Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker, affirm their unlimited support for Israel and its settlement and expansionist policy in the occupied Arab territory. In the wake of the hostile stance adopted recently by the U.S. Senate in its announcement that Jerusalem should remain the united capital of the Zionist entity and that the occupied Syrian Golan should remain part of the Zionist entity—in the wake of this hostile stance to the Arab nation and its central cause, the Palestine question—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker announced that every Jew has the right to stay in occupied Jerusalem and U.S. President George Bush announced that the Soviet Jewish emigrants should be allowed to move freely and to fly directly to Israel.

All these statements and stances reiterate that the U.S. policy has always been on the side of the Israeli aggression against the Arab nation. The U.S. policy clearly reveals its support for Jewish immigration to the occupied Arab territory. Within this policy, the U.S. Government agreed to give the Zionist enemy government $400 million to settle the Soviet Jewish emigrants in the occupied Arab land. The U.S. Administration is also pressuring some countries to facilitate the emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine on direct flights without any obstacles.

We were not surprised by this new yet old U.S. stand on an issue as serious as the immigration issue because we have always realized that the United States does not follow any particular policy in dealing with the developments in the regional conflict. It has always implemented an Israeli policy, which it abides by and defends with all its international, military, and economic weight. The United States has always prevented the UN Security Council from adopting any decision that condemns and denounces Israel's repressive measures in the occupied Arab territory; it has frequently used the veto to abort draft resolutions to this effect. The United States gives billions of dollars that are required for the Israeli expansionist, aggressive, and repressive policy in the occupied Arab territory and in the region. The United States also supplies the Israeli arsenal with the most advanced destructive and lethal weapons. The U.S. Administration reiterates its absolute bias toward the Zionist entity, encourages it to continue the Judaization of the Arab territory, and supports its aggressive and expansionist policy in the region.

Such a clear U.S. position expressed by the highest institutions and officials has no new meaning in our view other than the meaning which we have always understood in all stages of our conflict with the enemy: namely, that Washington has always been in the Israeli trench and that it has always worked in the service of Israeli objectives and interests. The diplomatic initiatives declared by Washington every now and then aim at covering up the Israeli expansionist policy in order to give it more time to peddle its aggressive and expansionist designs and to Judaize the Arab territory through encouraging the Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine and settling those emigrants in the West Bank and Gaza in preparation to force their people to leave them.

The new positions on the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine affirm that Washington is no longer a mere guarantor of the claimed Israeli security only but also a guarantor of all settlement plans and the policy of expansion, aggression, and repression carried out by Israel in the occupied Arab territory and the entire region.

PLO's Muhammad Milhim Interviewed in Amman

PM0504135490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Apr 90 p 3

[Report on interview with PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim by Layla Dib in Amman; date not given]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim has stated that all the parties which encouraged the peace process in the Middle East have abandoned it. He said that as long as East and West are competing and racing to give Israel and its rulers more and more gains

and more and more support, what reason is there for them [the Israeli leaders] to make any concessions?

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Amman, Milhim also said: The East and West are paying the bills without anything in return and without a single step by Israel toward peace. The East and West should have waited until after an international conference is held before settling such bills as allowing emigration from the Soviet Union and settlement in occupied Palestine, canceling previous decisions, and so forth. They have done so while Israel is killing people, seizing land, and violating peace principles every day.

He also said: "They are telling Israel: Prepare for a new expansionist war and we will support you."

He added: The main parties which had certain preconditions for the establishment of peace in the Middle East—preconditions that had to be fulfilled before the peace process could reach its objectives—dropped them when the Arabs accepted them.

The give and take and the tug of war continued for some time after the PLO's exit from West Beirut in 1982. The Reagan initiative was introduced and the Soviet Union, in its perestroyka and preparation for detente with the United States, began to demand the same things of the PLO and the Arabs as the United States did. It was argued that in an atmosphere of international detente there would be a different approach to finding a solution which may not please any of the parties but which would be implemented anyway if the necessary prerequisites were fulfilled. These prerequisites were recognition of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, recognition of the existence of Israel, and condemnation of terrorism.

The favorable circumstances of the intifadah made it easier for the PLO to make its peace initiative announced in 1988 in Algiers and to respond to these conditions, confident of the Palestinians' commitment at home and abroad and of the struggle under the banner of the intifadah. With Soviet and U.S. encouragement, it announced its initiative declaring that it was not a tactical but a strategic move. It left no doubt at any level—whether central council, executive committee, or intifadah—that it meant what it said.

That, Milhim said, was when the U.S. and Soviet retreats began and when the Israeli peace forces began to back down from their position of genuine support for the Palestinian initiative. The United States has still not recognized the PLO or given it a role in the peace negotiations at the bilateral or international level. Instead of sponsoring the Palestinian initiative it turned down a visit to New York by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. It adopted Shamir's plan and excluded the PLO from any political moves even at this stage. It proposed some ideas which encouraged Israel to persist in its opposition to the peace process. It put pressure on socialist countries such as Hungary to open a direct line for direct Jewish emigration to Israel and it put pressure on the Soviet Union to open a direct route between Moscow and Tel Aviv, not to mention its absolute support for the settlement program. On the other hand the Soviets opened the door to the emigration of millions of Jews before even the first step was taken toward comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and in so doing they negated their support for the peace process and the Palestinian initiative and helped to create a situation that would abort and torpedo it. They should have made emigration—flinging the doors wide open to emigration—conditional on prior consolidation of the foundations of peace.

Regarding the moderate camp in Israel, it has begun to shrink, as has been demonstrated on several occasions and as is indicated, for example, in the fall in the level of meetings abroad. It seems that those in Israel who feigned moderation no longer do so because they sense that the socialist camp, which was a main supporter of the PLO and the Arabs, has collapsed and now supports Israel.

He also said: All the parties which could play an effective part in solving the problem have violated their previous declarations and principles.

That itself absolves the other side—the Arabs and Palestinians—of their commitment. This must happen before it is too late, so that both East and West will realize that our people, who have made daily sacrifices and faced the instruments of Israeli repression, are ready for confrontation inside and outside, supported by their Arab brothers who must have begun to feel that the recent wave of immigration is not only against the Palestinians but also against the Arab nation throughout its extent.

That sense of danger is beginning to manifest itself, as reflected in the elimination of some Arab contradictions and differences and the enhancement of coordination, particularly between the Arab parties concerned with the Middle East conflict, so that others will realize, as they must, that the Arab nation does not depend on others and that it has sufficient economic resources and manpower to rely on itself in this current battle and challenge.

Al-Hasan Says USSR To Allow Jews To Return

JN0504130790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] In Nicosia, Khalid al-Hasan, chairman of the Palestinian delegation to the 38th Conference of the Interparliamentary Union being held in Cyprus, has affirmed that the USSR has agreed to grant the Soviet Jewish emigrants who wish to return to the USSR, the right to return. He added that a decision to this effect will be issued soon.

Al-Hasan criticized Baker's statements on the right of the Jewish emigrants to reside in any part of Jerusalem they choose. He also considered the decision adopted by the

Israeli Knesset on 28 March on the inconceivability of holding talks on East Jerusalem and the Golan as a tactical move that was taken to help in forming the new government.

Al-Hasan refused to comment on the peace process on the basis of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposal, affirming that it would be better to wait for developments in order to analyze them.

Several Casualties Reported in 4 Apr 'Bombardment'

JN0504212890 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1828 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Zionist helicopter gunships have launched a new barbarous aggression on the masses of our Palestinian people in southern Lebanon. News reports from southern Lebanon said that these Zionist helicopter gunships bombarded the al-Rashidiyah camp near Tyre yesterday using missile and heavy machine gun fire. The air bombardment resulted in the destruction of a two-story building and the martyrdom and wounding of several Palestinians.

PLO's Bal'awi Confers With Western Envoys

LD0504094290 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0755 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Tunis 5 Apr—The Palestinian ambassador to Tunisia, Mr. Hakam Bal'awi, conferred here last night with the French ambassador to Tunisia, Alain Francois [as received].

WAFA reported that the meeting discussed the latest developments of the Palestinian issue and the international efforts to push forward the peace march in the Middle East.

The agency added that Mr. Bal'awi, during the meeting, expressed thanks for the progressive French stance which supports Palestinian rights and he praised the efforts exerted by Paris for the sake of establishing peace.

Mr. Hakam Bal'awi also conferred with the U.S. charge d'affaires and the political advisor to the embassy in Tunis.

The two sides reviewed a number of issues concerning the developments in the Palestinian issue and obstacles obstructing the peace march which are basically the Israeli position and its continuing maneuvers aimed at defeating the peace efforts and raising tension by all means—especially by adopting the settlement policy and escalating terrorism against the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland.

Yasir 'Arafat Seeks Meeting With Peres

WA0604150090

For reportage on the visit by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to Paris, including reports on his talks with French President Francois Mitterrand on his desire to meet with Shim'on Peres, please see the France section of the 6 April West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Egypt

Commentary on Jewish Emigration, Israeli Plans

NC0504153090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "Black Clouds Are Gathering in the Middle East"]

[Text] At a time when the world is preparing for coexistence, competition, and peaceful cooperation at the end of the so-called cold war which followed World War II, the Middle East is becoming a time bomb with a horrible potential for destruction. The question we must ask ourselves is who is responsible for this and who could light the fuse. The simple and direct answer is that elements opposed to peace in Israel and the forces supporting these elements, particularly the Zionist lobby in the United States and elsewhere, are primarily responsible for this serious situation. They are the parties who could light the destructive fuse. If the forces seeking peace and stability want to avert the looming catastrophe in the region, they should find a way to check these forces which have been blinded by their ambitions, fanaticism, and hateful racism.

Those who are aware of the methods of these elements and the aggressive forces in Israel and elsewhere realize that all current measures and the furor and uproar being raised by the media which serve aggression and expansion in the Middle East are aimed at destroying the peace process and covering up the second historic Jewish emigration to Israel. One can hardly follow the developments of this ferocious and premeditated campaign. The U.S. Congress is exerting pressure at the direction of the Jewish lobby, adopting a decision which considers unified Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Thus the legislative branch of the greatest world power, which raises the slogan of democracy, right, and justice, violates international law and contravenes the declared policy of the executive branch, namely the Bush administration.

Meanwhile, pressure continues to be exerted on the Soviet Union and East Europe to open the doors for Jewish emigration by the millions and facilitate their travel to Israel. The effects of this pressure are evident in the positive response by certain East European countries. The uproar about anti-Semitism is again being raised worldwide.

Accompanying this ferocious campaign are indications that the aggressive and expansionist elements in Israel are preparing for terrorist operations in certain parts of the Arab world under the notorious cover of preemptive strikes against so-called Arab terrorism. In addition, there is talk about Israel's military strength coming from Israel itself and from the information media which serve Israel's aggressive and expansionist goals. Israeli officials are talking about Israel's horrible strength and they have announced the launching of a second spy satellite. At the same time, a U.S. magazine and Israeli papers noted for close ties to the sources of information have disclosed that Israel is developing a surface-to-surface missile that can hit targets at a distance of 6,000 km and that the Israelis can fire multistage missiles over a range covering all Arab countries. The same magazine says that Israel has 100 atomic bombs and dozens of nuclear warheads. Thus the campaign, or rather the plot, continues to cover up the second historic Jewish emigration to Israel with the aim of swallowing up what remains of Palestinian territory and establishing the so-called Greater Israel or the historical homeland of the Jews that threatens the security and peace of the region's peoples. Will the new plan succeed as did the old one when Israel was established? This question can only be answered by future events. All we can say is that all that the Arab countries and people can do is defend their interests, entity, and even their fate with all legitimate means available while seeking the help of the forces of peace, justice, and right in the world.

Cairo Newspapers on 'New Warning' to Region

NC0604091290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0704 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—Today's Cairo papers pay close attention to the recent events in the Middle East, which they regard as a new warning to the Arab nation to act quickly to try to repel the anticipated dangers.

In its leading editorial, AL-AHRAM reviews the most important of these events, starting with an announcement by a Soviet official that he expects about 4 million citizens to emigrate from the Soviet Union this year, the majority of them Jews who will go to Israel. This announcement coincided with a suspicious resolution passed by the U.S. Senate calling on the U.S. Administration to recognize the legality of Israel's annexation of Arab Jerusalem and to consider it Israel's unified capital. These were followed by the still stranger statements by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in which he declared that Jewish emigrants have the right to reside and settle in Arab Jerusalem. Then came Israel's hysterical campaign against Iraq in the form of statements and reports that certainly constitute a flexing of muscles.

AL-AHRAM stresses that silence on the issue of Jewish emigration can no longer be tolerated and that we must speak to the world in the language it understands and now speaks, the language of human rights. To protect the right of a Jewish man in the Soviet Union at the expense of the entire people of Palestine is unreasonable, the paper says. It also stresses that silence on the issue of Jerusalem can also not be tolerated any longer, particularly as these sudden moves emanate from a superpower which is supposed to be a basic partner in the task of reviving the peace efforts.

Regarding the recent threats to Iraq originating in Israel, the paper says that there is no explanation for them except that peace is still far removed from the thinking and concept of the Israelis. The Israelis, the paper says,

are still dominated by the complexities and sensitivities of the past and have not absorbed the international and regional changes.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AHRAM stresses that for all these challenges to be confronted, the Arab house must be in order, all forms of Arab differences and sensitivities must be ended, and the course of clearing the air must be completed. This is particularly true regarding the Iraqi-Syrian conflict, because the time has really come to close the files on this matter.

Writing on the same issue, AL-AKHBAR says: In view of first the U.S., then the British, and then the Israeli threats against Iraq, it has become necessary for the Arab world to declare its united stand on any threat to Iraq from any quarter and under any pretext that is being used to influence world public opinion. It is the right of this fraternal country to call on its brothers to discuss these threats. The paper adds: The real aim of the revelation by Israel and its friends that it possesses more than 100 atomic bombs and dozens of nuclear warheads carried by long-range missiles is to frighten and intimidate all the Arabs, but this is cheap propaganda that will not achieve its aims.

AL-AKHBAR then says: U.S. and some Western circles raised a great commotion when Iraq announced the production of a long-range missile capable of reaching Israel. However, no one says anything about what Tel Aviv does when Israel announces its ability to launch multistage missiles that can reach all the Arab countries. Concluding the editorial, the paper adds: Washington and other capitals know for sure about Israel's nuclear efforts and its readiness to launch acts of aggression against any Arab country, but things go on as if nothing has happened. Indeed, Israel receives an uninterrupted flow of military and technical aid, in addition to the aid given by U.S. intelligence to its Israeli counterpart.

As for AL-JUMHURIYAH, it writes under the headline "Peace, the Hope and the Substance": What draws attention is the Peres description of his probable Israeli Government as one of peace. The paper then queries the meaning of the peace that Peres wants and asks whether he is basing it on his former stands, when the Labor Party showed, prior to the cabinet crisis, a reasonable flexibility on accepting the Baker points that would pave the way for a meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel and the U.S. secretary of state to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, or whether a slender majority in the Knesset and the small parties' commitment to the settlements will be the pretext for Peres' abandonment of his former stands. Concluding, the paper warns of the ploy of delaying tactics which successive Israeli Governments have mastered to impose faits accomplis, despite the dangers that this entails for Israel itself.

Mubarak Phones Jordan's Husayn on Area Concerns

NC0604050790 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2241 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak telephoned King Husayn of Jordan tonight. They exchanged views on a number of important events in the region.

West German Opposition Leader Arrives on Visit

NC0604104890 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1020 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Hans-Jochen Vogel, leader of West Germany's Social Democratic Party, arrived in Cairo this morning at the head of a large party delegation on a five-day visit to Egypt. Dr. Vogel stated on arrival that the aim of the visit is to hold talks with Egyptian officials on various aspects of bilateral cooperation and to discuss the current situation in the world and in the Middle East.

Libya

U.S. Reaction to Hostage Offer 'Ridiculous'

LD0604103290 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
0725 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 6 Apr (JANA)—JANA's political editor has ridiculed the U.S. official stand on the humanitarian call in which the brother leader of the revolution had urged, in his capacity as leader of the international people's Islamic leaderships, the release of hostages as well as prisoners of conscience on the occasion of the blessed month of Ramadan.

The editor added that although White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater's statement, in which he showed "some astonishment" regarding the revolutionary leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's call, is ridiculous, it did not astonish us. Rather, it has reaffirmed the shallowness of U.S. official thinking, the limitation of its awareness, and its irresponsibility. It shows, therefore, that the United States lives in darkness and ignorance and that it could only see world leaders and people through the imperialist-Zionist propagandist perception which previoulst led it into fatal mistakes causing it to lose a great deal of credibility in the world because of this darkness in which it lives.

The editor went on to say that the world can only laugh in astonishment in seeing how the U.S. officials have reacted to a serious humanitarian step which might—and it has become clear that it would—put an end to a problem which has given a number of people sleepless nights, particularly those who are concerned with it. The editor wonders, furthermore, how they could be astonished at the statement made by the internationalist revolutionary leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who is the imam of Muslims throughout the world and the leader of the international people's Islamic leaderships. Maybe they could only explain matters through their

rancorous propagandist perception, because when they encroached on us we resisted them, and they looked at that as barbarism. We, however, consider it a legitimate right and a great honor and glory.

The editor wondered who freed the Frenchwoman Clauster from the hands of Habre? And who freed the two French children and the Belgian hostage? Were they not all freed thanks to the Great Jamahiriyah's efforts in this respect? [passage omitted]

The editor recalled the brother leader of the revolution's humanitarian stance which was in response to the Anglican church's request, through its envoy Terry Waite, when the brother leader personally asked the Basic People's Congresses to free the British prisoners in Libya, which was subsequently done. However, Britain has yet to fulfill its promise: Libyan students are still in British prisons facing the worst kind of torture.

The editor pointed out the Great Jamahiriyah's stance toward the British occupation of Ireland and its analysis of the nature of the struggle taking place there, saying: They consider our support for oppressed minorities as terrorism and a crime, stressing the fact that the Third Universal Theory has found, thanks to its eternal humanitarian dogmas, a radical and final solution to today's world political, economic, and social problems, including the problem of minorities. The Great Jamahiriyah supports, in accordance with that theory, oppressed minorities throughout the world, in the forefront of which are blacks and Red Indians in the United States.

The political editor concluded saying: We are going forward with our eternal message. However, those whose thinking is controlled by the racist imperialist-Zionist perception do not mean anything to our continuous march and preaching of this message.

France's Dumas Welcomes Al-Qadhdhafi's Call

LD0504175790 Tripoli JANA in English
1454 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tayr [April] 5, Jamahiriyah News Agency—The French Government expressed relief toward the humane call from the leader of the revolution yesterday to the masses of Muslims to release the hostages and the detainees.

The French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said, in response to questions from journalists, that the French Government looked with pleasure at the call from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for the release of the hostages.

He added saying "such humane gesture had given great hope for the release of the hostages including Jacqueline Valante."

Spokesman Condemns 'Campaign' Against Iraq

LD0604090490 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
0735 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, 6 Apr (JANA)—In reply to a question from JANA on the media campaign being waged by the Zionist enemy and its supportive imperialist circles—especially the United States—against fraternal Iraq, particularly regarding President Saddam Husayn's statement affirming that Iraq would respond firmly if the Zionist enemy commited another aggression against its installations, an authoritative source at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation said:

The aims of this hostile campaign are absolutely clear; it comes in the context of the path taken by imperialist forces, which are hostile to the Arab motherland, and is represented in the attempts to prevent the motherland from achieving any scientific or technical progress. Otherwise, why is there a furor only when the matter concerns an Arab state, while the aforementioned circles remain silent about the Zionist enemy's possessing all sorts of weapons of mass destruction, especially when the Zionists refrain from signing the international agreements concerning the proliferation and use of these weapons?

While condemning this campaign, the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation affirms the Great Jamahiriyah's stand by fraternal Iraq. It also urges the Arab motherland to take a unified and decisive stand toward the powers which support the enemy and endeavors to bring the Arabs under their control and prevent them from achieving any progress.

French Source Says Libya Uninvolved in Chad

LD0504180390 Tripoli JANA in English
1406 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Paris, al-Tayr [April] 5, Jamahiriyah news agency—A senior French official has reaffirmed that Libya has no connection with the battles raging now in Chad, REUTER reported.

Mauritania

* French Donation for Mauritanian Refugees

34190075D Dakar LE SOLEIL in French
16 Jan 90 p 5

[Text] By way of aid to the Mauritanian flood refugees, the French Ministry of Cooperation has just allocated a new subsidy of 1,645,000 French francs for the purpose of meeting the most urgent needs of this segment of the population.

This subsidy was paid out directly, by decision of the head of the Cultural Action and Cooperation Mission in Dakar, to the local office of the United Nations High

Commission for Refugees. Its purpose was to guarantee the launching of the 1990 aid program, which is concerned in particular with the following points:

- The purchase of seeds and tools.
- The location of water holes and drilling of wells.
- The purchase of food supplies.

This aid is added to that already contributed by France during 1989, which included:

- The delivery of 416 tons of rice, valued at 1,750,000 French francs.
- The purchase of equipment for the Physicians of the World, Doctors Without Frontiers, and ENDA [expansion unknown] teams, valued at 451,000 French francs.
- A gift of 35 tons of emergency supplies (foodstuffs, medicines, and various goods of first necessity), valued at 1,500,000 French francs.

Tunisia

President Receives Iraq's Taha Yasin Ramadan

JN0504163090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Tunis, 5 Apr (INA)—Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister of Iraq, here today.

During the meeting, Ramadan conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings to his brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. He stressed Iraq's satisfaction with its developed relations with fraternal Tunisia, and its determination to continue to promote and expand these relations in all fields, to promote pan-Arab ties and bilateral relations, and to strengthen the Arab position.

The first deputy prime minister briefed the Tunisian president on the dimensions and objectives of the exposed aggressive campaign led by the United States, Britain, and the Zionist entity. He stressed the determination of the Iraqi people and leadership to maintain scientific progress, to possess the most advanced technology, to defend Iraq's sovereignty and security, and to continue scientific progress and comprehensive development.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added that although the hostile campaign is directed against Iraq, it is also against all Arabs, their scientific progress, their will, and their independence. He said that one purpose of this campaign is to divert world attention from what the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories are being exposed to at the hands of Zionists and to strengthen the Zionist entity's rejection of Palestinian rights and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

The Tunisian president asked Ramadan to convey his greetings to President Saddam Husayn, his pride in his personal ties with Saddam Husayn, and Tunisia's pride in its developed relations with Iraq and its serious desire to promote these relations further in all fields.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali reiterated Tunisia's solidarity with Iraq, its support, and its denunciation of the suspect campaign against Iraq. The Tunisian president called for a clear and practical stand against this suspect campaign, which is not aimed only against Iraq, but against the entire Arab nation. He stressed Iraq's right to achieve progress and development to defend its existence and future.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the current Arab situation, and the importance of bolstering and reinforcing Arab solidarity to confront all conspiracies against the Arabs.

Attending the meeting were Tunisian Prime Minister Dr. Hamed Karoui, Tunisian Foreign Minister Ismail Khelil, and Iraqi Ambassador in Tunis Hamid 'Alwan al-Juburi.

Democratic Rally's Zouari Meets Libyan Officials

LD0504175890 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Mr. Abderrahim Zouari, secretary general of the Democratic Constitutional Rally [DCR], met yesterday at noon at DCR headquarters with Mr. Ibrahim Abu Khizan, assistant secretary of the Libyan General People's Council, and members of the subcommittee of the Tunisian-Libyan higher committee.

The two sides reviewed the progress of the relations between the two fraternal peoples, which is being continuously consolidated along the path of integration and construction of a joint future.

The meeting also discussed the progress of the Maghreb march toward fulfilling the aspirations of the peoples of the region and toward facing up to challenges. They also exchanged views about a number of issues in the Arab arena.

The DCR secretary general reiterated the solidarity of its strugglers with the fraternal Libyan people against anything that could harm them or violate their sovereignty. Both sides expressed solidarity with the fraternal people of Iraq against the biased media campaign to which they are exposed.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Returns From Saudi Arabia

LD0504170990 Kuwait KUNA in English 0700 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Kuwait, April 5 (KUNA)—Deputy premier, Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad returned home at dawn Thursday from a brief visit to Saudi Arabia. Sheikh Sabah delivered a message from H.H. [His Highness] the amir, Sheikh Jabir al-Ahmad, to Saudi Monarch King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz during a meeting attended by senior Saudi officials and the Kuwaiti ambassador to Riyadh, Abdul Rahman al-Bakr.

The Kuwaiti chief diplomat conferred while there with crown prince, Deputy Premier and head of the national guards Prince Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al 'Aziz on fraternal ties binding the two sisterly countries and development in the region.

United Arab Emirates

Editorial Says U.S. Should Change Arab Stand

JN0504221290 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 3 Apr 90 pp 1, 21

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's statements that Iraq is militarily capable of retaliating for any Zionist aggression, and the U.S. and Israeli reactions to these statements clearly reveal the magnitude of the injustice inflicted on the Arab nation by the West in general and the United States in particular.

The United States remains idle while Israel possesses nuclear and conventional weapons arsenals. It would be naive to expect it to behave differently, particularly as it is the country supplying Israel with the most sophisticated and advanced weapons systems. However when an Arab state attempts to secure defensive weapons to defend itself, which is a legitimate right, the floodgates are opened for a deluge of convulsive statements and provocative threats to strike at this Arab state, which has chosen to exercise its right to secure its defensive weapons requirements.

These U.S. and West European statements, in fact, are not prompted by the desire to safeguard world or regional peace. No, the main and sole objective behind them is to fortify and protect Israel and to maintain its military superiority in the Middle East.

This exposed U.S. bias in favor of Israel has prompted our wise leadership, out of a desire to see the United States adopt fair and friendly positions toward other states, to draw attention to the flawed and inconsistent U.S. role. His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, has affirmed the United States is biased. He added: If the United States, considering its power, capabilities, and leverage, were to adopt a fair position in its dealings with its friends, it would play a bigger, greater, and more powerful role, and its friends would increase and double. It is with regret, however, that I say the United States is not upholding justice. The United States has continued to espouse unfair and unjust policies. That is because the biased party ends up losing all friends. This party might think it is doing the right thing. Its policy, however, cannot be called sound.

This unjust U.S. policy harms not only the Arabs and other peoples, but also the U.S. people, from whom the relevant facts are withheld to prevent them from playing any positive role.

The leader Zayid added: Our desire for friendship persists and we still hope our friend will change and correct his position.

Will the United States change its position and espouse the right policy?

Yemen Arab Republic

Committee Condemns 'Hostile' Iraq Campaign

JN0504203490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, chaired a meeting today of the General Committee. Its members discussed developing the General People's Congress cadre and its pioneering role in the course of national movement. [passage omitted]

The General Committee reviewed the unjust and hostile campaign against fraternal Iraq by Zionist and Western media. The committee expressed its strong denunciation of the campaign conducted by circles known for their hostility toward the Arab nation. The committee agreed this campaign not only is aimed at Iraq, but also against the entire Arab nation. The committee also expressed our country's support for Iraq in opposing any threat or aggression against its security and sovereignty.

PDRY Interior Ministers Brief Salih on Unity

JN0504213390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received today Brigadier General Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, member of the Political Bureau, deputy prime minister, and interior minister in the southern part of the homeland; and Dr. 'Abdallah Husayn Barakat, interior minister and member of the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress. The two ministers briefed the brother leader on the current steps to merge the two interior ministries into one ministry when the statutes and the structure of the unified ministry in the unity state have been approved.

Newspaper Reports Telexes on 'Capacitators'

JN0604092790

[Editorial Report] Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English on 3 April on pp 2-3 carries copies of purported telexes (labeled annex one through six) regarding the sale and shipping of "high voltage capacitators." A summary description of the annexes follows:

Annex 1: From the al-Qa'qa' State Establishment to Euromac Company accepting the offer; dated 19 June 1989. Supplement to Annex 1 is voucher for capacitators.

Annex 2: University of Technology end-user certification that capacitators for sole use of laser system.

Annex 3: Al-Qa'qa' confirmation of order with description of units, quantity, and cost.

Annex 4 and 5: From CSI Capacitators' Dan Saunders dated 11 and 23 January 1990, to al-Qa'qa' discussing delays encountered in the transaction and need to prevent "exposure."

Annex 6: From al-Qa'qa' to Saunders dated 24 January 1990 apologizing for "what happened with the shipment instructions." In addition, page 3 shows a document identified as "Text of statement by Global Technical and Management Service (International) Ltd. issued following a raid on Monday, 28 March, on the Company's offices, accountants, solicitors, and the homes of directors by British Customs authorities".

Papers on U.S.-U.K. Human Rights 'Hypocrisy'

JN0504133390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 5 Apr (INA)—Iraqi newspapers today called on the international community to use all means to uncover the nuclear stockpile of the Zionist entity, which has not yet signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. They also called for eliminating nuclear weapons from the entire region and for the International Atomic Energy Authority [IAEA] to inspect the Zionist entity's nuclear facilities.

The newspapers in their editorials today expressed strong condemnation of the exposed U.S.-British-Zionist attempts to prevent the Arabs from obtaining advanced technology for peaceful purposes.

AL-THAWRAH condemns the political hypocrisy by the United States and Britain concerning human rights. [passage omitted]

The paper wonders whether Britain can talk about human rights after it gave Palestine, which did not belong to it, to world Zionism. It asks: Why does Britain now remember and cry for human rights when it forgets the rights of the Palestinians in their land and on their national soil? Why did it not denounce the horrible crimes perpetrated daily by the Tel Aviv Zionists against Palestinian women, old men, and children?

The paper also discusses the similar hypocrisy by the United States, which appointed itself defender of the human rights of Jews in the USSR. It said the United States was falsely claiming it objects to Zionist settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

AL-THAWRAH refers to the U.S. abstention when the UN Human Rights Committee adopted a resolution in Geneva on 16 February calling on the Zionist entity to refrain from settling Soviet emigrants in the occupied Arab territories.

The paper asks: How come they want to attain the rights of the Jews at the expense of Palestinian rights? When the U.S. Senate adopted its infamous resolution acknowledging holy Jerusalem as the unified capital of the Zionist entity, contradicting all world legitimate resolutions regarding this, did it have to do with human rights? Is it its eagerness for human rights that prompted the U.S. House of Representatives to allocate hundreds of millions of dollars to help Tel Aviv settle Soviet Jews in occupied Palestine?

AL-QADISIYAH refutes the exposed U.S. logic, which evades asking the Zionist entity to let the IAEA inspect its nuclear facilities.

The paper says the United States, which calls itself a superpower, ignored the most fundamental principles of the international law and frequently declared irresponsible positions adopting the Zionist viewpoint against Arab interests and legitimate rights.

It points out that the United States, which supports Israel in all its aggressive plans, including its full freedom to use atomic weapons against Iraq and the Arab nation, opposes Iraq's use or possession of chemical weapons and missiles and its legitimate right to defend itself and its rights.

The paper exposes the excuses and lies made by U.S. State Department spokesman Margaret Tutwiler on 2 April when she ignored the Zionist entity's refusal to allow the world to inspect its nuclear facilities, which is the main reason for the whole crisis.

AL-QADISIYAH stresses Iraq's legitimate right and unlimited readiness to defend its land and economic and scientific facilities against any premeditated Zionist aggression.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Those concerned about the security and stability of the Middle East should better curb this rotten, spoiled, and illegitimate entity, which they planted in the Arab land and provided with protection and care. [passage omittted]

The paper says the leaders of imperialism, who talk about the security of the Middle East and wish it less tension, are the ones who encouraged the Zionist entity's aggression, expansion, and arrogance; made all military, material, moral, political, and media support available to it; and backed it in all its hostile moves.

It says these leaders know very well the Zionist entity possesses nuclear weapons, and that it did not sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. They are trying, however, to prevent the Arabs from obtaining advanced technology, even for peaceful purposes.

The paper says Iraq realizes its international and moral responsibility much more than the "big players" do. The history of these big players is full of acts of aggression against nations, interference in internal affairs, and use of atomic, chemical, bacteriological, and conventional arms for pure aggressive purposes. But when Iraq manufactures a weapon, it makes it to defend itself and its nation and to deter lurking enemies, who are up to their ears in the strongest arsenal of destructive weapons. [passage omitted]

Ramadan Comments on Results of Tunisia Visit

JN0504172490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Tunis, 5 Apr (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, has met with the chief editors of the Tunisian daily newspapers.

An expanded talk was conducted on the hostile Zionist-British-U.S. campaign against Iraq and on the current Arab situation. Ramadan spoke about the Iraqi delegation's visit to Tunisia and relations between the two countries. He said the visit was a result of the summit between President Saddam Husayn and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in last December in Baghdad. He added that one result of the visit was an increase in bilateral trade to $200 million. He stressed Iraq's possession of chemical weapons is for peace, not aggression, because Iraq seeks peace and wants to defend Arab land.

[In a similar report, Baghdad INA in Arabic at 2040 GMT 5 April says: "The agreement provides for increasing trade between the two countries to $200 million, and for promoting cooperation and exchanging expertise in the economic, industrial, media, agricultural, and tourism fields."]

Planning Minister Returns From Havana Visit

JN0504214590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2050 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Apr (INA)—Planning Minister Samal Majid Faraj and his delegation returned to Baghdad this evening after heading the Iraqi side to meetings of the joint Iraqi-Cuban committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, which concluded its meetings yesterday in Havana.

In a statement to INA, the planning minister said the two sides signed a protocol promoting economic, trade, and technical ties. He added that he met with Cuban officials during the meetings and discussed ways to enhance Iraqi-Cuban ties in the countries' interests.

Maneuverings After Peres Announcement Continue

Likud Restricting Agreement

TA0504162490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will not ratify the draft agreement between the Likud and the runaway Liberals unless Avraham Sharir withdraws his Alignment support. Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitz reports the Likud has placed another condition on the agreement: It absolutely will be canceled if Shamir is not the next prime minister. For the time being, therefore, there is no agreement between the Liberals and the Likud.

Vote Scheduled, Postponed

TA0504181590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1753 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Correspondent Dov Gilhar report]

[Excerpt] The bottom line is that the Knesset will convene at noon Sunday and conduct a vote of confidence in the government. The body will vote after a debate, during which Shim'on Peres will present his government to the Knesset.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir a short while ago responded favorably to Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky's appeal by agreeing in principle to submit a request that the Knesset be convened. Shamir said: Since the law stipulates the appeal to the Knesset speaker must come from the Cabinet, not merely from the prime minister, I will be obliged to bring the entire issue to the Cabinet for approval on Sunday morning. Shamir promised Shilansky to do his best to persuade the Cabinet to request the Knesset speaker convene the plenum during the recess so Peres can present his government. Shamir told Shilansky he believes the Cabinet indeed will reach such a decision. Based on the above, Shilansky decided that he will convene the Knesset at noon on Sunday. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 2000 GMT 5 April, adds: "The Knesset will convene 11 April at 0900. Shim'on Peres will present his government and request the confidence of the House.

"Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky has told the Voice of Israel he decided to postpone the Knesset debate from Sunday to Wednesday because the debate is expected to last many hours, which is inconvenient just a day before Passover."]

NRP Will Not Back Peres

TA0504192990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] The NRP [National Religious Party] will not support a government headed by Shim'on Peres, if such a government indeed is presented to the Knesset on Sunday. NRP made this decision tonight, explaining that one does not support a government based on defectors. Minister Hammer told our correspondent Shlomo Raz that, since it has been proven there still is a political tie, it is essential to set up a unity government.

Conversely, Minister Sciaki adhered to his stance that a narrow-based government must not be categorically ruled out. If Shamir is tasked with establishing one, the NRP should negotiate with him.

Arens Comments

TA0504195690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] No government that can be established now—headed by Peres or Shamir—will stand a chance of surviving in Israel's political situation. These remarks were made tonight by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

[Begin Arens recording] If Mr. Peres sets up a government now with the assistance of this or that defector, or if Mr. Shamir—who is the leader of my party—now forms a government with the aid of this or that guarantee, I do not believe either of these governments will survive. With all respect due to these leaders, I do not think their governments will be able to propel us toward peace; nor do I think these governments will be able to function. The game will continue with one party luring a member of another party to cross over, and vice versa. These governments will not enjoy any stability, and their hands will be tied. [end recording]

Sharir, Shamir Not To Meet

TA0504202390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] There has been another development in the political arena. It seems Avraham Sharir, the 61st Knesset member on whom Peres' coalition relies, does not wish to meet with Prime Minister Shamir. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that, as things stand now, it seems the meeting between Shamir and Sharir, set in the wake of the preparatory session between Minister Qatzav and Sharir and scheduled for tomorrow morning, will not take place.

Shinuy Not To Join Peres

TA0604042690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] In a majority vote last night, the Shinuy executive decided not to join the Alignment government under the present circumstances, as this would be a government founded on a majority of renegades and an agreement enforcing religious coercion. This is the text of the resolution. At the same time, Shinuy's negotiating team was authorized to examine various proposals by other parties on peace and a change in the electoral system.

The prime minister has informed Knesset Member Refa'el Pinhasi of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] that the Likud has raised no proposal to alter the electoral system or to call early elections. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports the above remarks came in

reaction to Rabbi Pinhasi's question regarding rumors that some Likud ministers have suggested to the Shinuy executive to change the electoral system.

Peres 'Murder' Threat Noted

TA0604084490 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 6 Apr 90 p 1

[By Yehezqel Adiram]

[Text] A man who presented himself as a member of the Sicarii informed me last night he would murder anyone who helps set up a government led by Shim'on Peres.

The man said the warning also was directed at Peres himself, as well as the president of the state, whom they call on to resign. "We will not give the candidates to be killed prior warning. We will just carry out the action," he threatened.

Labor To Endorse New Cabinet

TA0604084090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] The Labor Party Central Committee will meet on 10 April at 2200 to endorse the list of candidates for ministerial positions in Peres' government and the government's basic guidelines. This was decided this morning during the meeting of the Alignment negotiating team. The team was briefed on last night's contacts with the three leftist factions: United Workers Party, the Citizens Rights Movement, and Shinuy.

Shevardnadze Remark on Ties Not 'Official'

TA0604104390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] In Washington, U.S. and Soviet officials say Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze appears to have warmed to the idea of talks between Moscow and Israel on direct flights, if Israel provides guarantees that Soviet Jewish immigrants would not be settled in the territories. A U.S. official says the Soviets had told Secretary of State Baker that they might be willing to open diplomatic relations with Israel if they got assurances on the matter.

In Jerusalem, the Foreign Ministry said it cannot respond to the reports because an official statement was not made.

Knesset Committee Briefed on Saddam Address

TA0504172190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today convened at the chief of staff's bureau to try and understand the meaning of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's speech. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the committee heard a thorough briefing by Major General Amnon Shahaq, the chief of intelligence. Among other things, the committee was told the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the defense establishment are aware of all the strategic implications of the speech. In the discussion, a question was raised on whether the speech results from Saddam's fear of Israel, or whether this means Israel no longer is threatening.

Newspaper Urges Peres To Negotiate With PLO

TA0504183790 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Apr 90 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Peres...A Government in Abeyance"]

[Text] In an interview with Israeli television last night, Israeli Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres, who has been assigned with forming the new Israeli Government in the wake of the resounding collapse of Shamir's government two weeks ago, announced he had succeeded in overcoming the 61-vote barrier and consequently had the necessary majority to enable him to present his government to the Israeli Knesset for a vote of confidence. Peres asked Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky to call the Knesset into session next Sunday to begin the vote of confidence procedure.

Peres stated the issue of expediting Jewish immigration to Israel, preserving Israel's security from perils, and solving the problems of unemployment will be among the most prominent concerns of his future government. He did not address the issue of advancing the peace process by acknowledging the Palestinians' legitimate national rights and accepting the principle of "exchanging land for peace." Without a commitment to this principle, neither Peres nor other Israeli leaders will be able to find any Arab or Palestinian with whom to negotiate.

At any rate, whether Peres succeeds in shattering the 61-vote barrier and is able to form his government or not, as long as he barricades himself behind his traditional insidious positions that refuse to categorically acknowledge the Palestinians' legitimate national rights and reject recognition of the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, it will not be possible to wager on him to achieve peace. The days following the government's formation will reveal more than ever the real face of this false pretender, who during his spurious fight with his partner in the collapsed coalition, tried to depict himself as the supporter of peace and the apostle of friendship within the context of a game that seeks to beautify Israel's image in the world.

Peres' government will be welcomed by us, the Palestinians, and by all peace-loving forces, if Peres announces clearly, unequivocally, and unambiguously his recognition of the PLO, as well as his readiness to negotiate based on UN resolutions. Otherwise, the announcement on the formation of a government will be no more than a new chapter in the scenario of the game of gaining time, whose threads Shamir wove.

AL-QUDS on 'Campaign' Against Iraq, Libya

TA0504161090 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 4 Apr 90 p 7

[Editorial: "The Middle East, Chemical Weapons, and Weeping Over Stability"]

[Text] The violent U.S. reaction that followed Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's—in which he disclosed Iraq possessed advanced chemical weapons—was the crowning of a U.S.-Western campaign against Libya and Iraq under the slogan of "maintaining the Middle East's stability." This campaign assumed several forms, but its obvious goal always was to prevent Iraq, Libya, or any Arab country from possessing advanced technology that would enable it to protect its interests and prevent foreign intervention.

It seems the United States and some Western countries perceive "stability" in the Middle East as a continuation of the status quo, as long as this serves their vital interests in the region, particularly preserving the sources of energy, irrespective of Arab interests and the challenges facing all Arab states. Stability in the Middle East must ensure the rights and interests of the region's nations. Washington is aware that this factor's absence is the main cause of the results we are witnessing today. Perhaps the United States also is aware that the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem, for which a just solution still has not been found, constitute the basis for the current situation in the region.

The nations of the Middle East, including the Arab nations in general and the Palestinians in particular, are the ones who have a real interest in the maintenance of stability and peace in the region. For many decades the Middle East crisis not only has remained unresolved, but has become more aggravated. What has the United States, the "superpower," done to resolve the real crisis that threatens Middle East stability? What positions has it has adopted and can it adopt to protect the interests of the region's nations, foremost of which is the rights of the Palestinian people? Perhaps we can find some of the answers to these questions in the "vetoes" whic consecutive U.S. Administrations have used against any resolution protecting Arab interests in any way. Washington would not have been able to enjoy this "veto" right in the Security Council had it not been for its massive arsenals of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

Stability in the Middle East cannot be achieved by continued disavowal of Arab interests and the Palestinians' rights, continued interference in the affairs of Arab states, or by continuous weeping over peace and human rights. The nations of the Middle East crave peace and stability and detest all kinds of weapons. If Washington and the forces supporting it wish to achieve stability, they have to address the causes for the lack of stability by trying to find a just, durable, and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the central problem, the Palestinian problem. The arms race in the region, otherwise, will remain a natural consequence of the conflict's continuation. If, God forbid, a new conflagration erupts, neither weeping nor singing slogans about human rights emanating from Washington and some western capitals will be of any use.

IDF Suicide Rate Reportedly Increased in 1989

TA0604090890 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Apr 90 p A 2

[By 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Excerpt] Thirty-seven male and female soldiers committed suicide last year, according to figures for the just-concluded IDF [Israel Defense Forces] work year.

The average suicide rate during the previous 10 years was about 27 soldiers a year. The number of suicides this year is almost one-third higher than that average and is close to the peak year, in which 39 male and female soldiers took their own lives. [passage omitted]

Jew Reported Injured in Jerusalem Stabbing

TA0604084190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] A 30-year-old Jew was stabbed a while ago in the butchers market in the Old City of Jerusalem. An initial report indicates he was moderately injured. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that all the Old City gates have been closed. Careful searches are being conducted in the area, and dozens of suspects have been rounded up.

Arab Youth Dies; Officer 'Seriously Injured'

TA0504175790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 17 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] An Army officer was seriously injured in the 'Askar refugee camp in Nabulus when he was hit by an Arab truck. He was taken to Tel Hashomer Hospital in a police helicopter. His condition is serious. The driver of the truck, who also was hurt, was taken to a hospital in Nabulus and then detained with three passengers from the truck.

A 16-year-old youth from Ramallah died today after being wounded by Army gunfire. The youth was hit in the head by a rubber bullet when soldiers were dispersing a group of rioters.

In Tulkarm, three residents were wounded by rubber bullets, and a number of Israeli vehicles were stoned.

Iranian Charge Meets Fadlallah, Shams Al-Din

LD0504102790 Tehran IRNA in English 0944 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Beirut, April 5, IRNA—Iran's Charge d'Affaires to Beirut Mohammad Javad Zamanian Wednesday met with the prominent Lebanese theologian Allaman Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and Vice-Speaker of the Supreme Assembly of the Lebanese Shiite Muslims Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, separately.

The Lebanese situation and latest developments in the world of Islam covered Zamanian's talks with the two Lebanese personalities.

Present in the meetings was Iran's ambassador to Damascus Mohammad Hasan Akhtari.

RFL Provides 'Text' of Ja'ja' AL-DIYAR Interview

NC0504102090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Apr 90

["Text" of interview with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' by unidentified reporter for AL-DIYAR on 3 April and published on 4 April—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Ja'ja'] The general is pleasant. Truly he is pleasant. He is pleasant, pleasant. He should have supervised the production of the Ba'labakk and al-Arz festivals. They would have been more successful. I say this with all due respect to the al-Rahbani family [producers of the festivals]. What is strange is that it is becoming more evident to me that General 'Awn lives in his own imaginary world, a world belonging only to him. He has his own logic and his own facts that have no bearing on reality and what is truly happening, and he acts accordingly.

Who started this war? They [not further identified] asked him. They used to refer to his attitude. First, I will ask: Who started this and other wars? Gen. 'Awn started and declared this war by presenting a very clear policy. He still says that he will unify the rifle and that to have two rifles is impermissible. Is this true or not? It was Gen. 'Awn who started the war under the slogan of unifying the rifle, which implicitly meant the abolition of the Lebanese Forces. He started the political aspect of this war four or five days before the military aspect, on 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31 January 1990, if I remember correctly. He said on these days: No illegitimate rifle or armed man may exist any more. We wants to get rid of these scoundrels, this division and fragmentation. All rifles must belong to the Lebanese Army, which must be the only existing armed force.

He then waged his military war starting with the Qamar school and all the Lebanese Forces positions he occupied in al-Dikwanah, and ending with the Bayt al-Mustaqbal and al-Dubayyah barracks, which were the prelude to the two-month war in the eastern area. Was it his father who started this war? It is he who waged the war. After all this he asks me why this war? It is he who waged it.

Second, I do not understand why he finds our attitude toward the legitimacy or the al-Ta'if agreement strange. Our original attitude was that the al-Ta'if agreement includes both good and bad points, that the agreement is subject to discussion, and that it will be discussed again through the constitutional institutions. What do I say now? I say the same thing. Why is he surprised? In fact, I used to tell him much harsher things during our private sessions. I used to tell the media that the agreement has good points and not-so-good points. I used to tell him more than this. Why is he surprised?

As for legitimacy, when Rene Mu'awwad, God bless his soul, was elected president of the Republic, for an entire day we tried to persuade him to recognize Mu'awwad as the president of the republic and then if he still so wished, to see how he could oppose the al-Ta'if agreement through constitutional and legitimate channels. He did not agree. Night came and we were still trying to persuade him. I told him: It is my opinion that nothing can be put right if we do not recognize the legitimacy. No matter how much we beat around the bush and circumvent the issue, nothing will be achieved and we will lose all international and Arab support and all the resources. Consequently, we will fail because of our own stands, and others will adhere to legitimacy, benefit from it, and exploit it. If anyone knows our true stands, it is Gen. 'Awn. Therefore, I do not understand what surprises him.

What is causing his surprise is his own cute world even though it cost the country what it did. It is still a delectable world to the general. He is surprised now why we waged the war. Who waged the war? Why was the war waged? He is surprised about our stands on the legitimacy and the al-Ta'if agreement. Our stand on the al-Tai'if agreement did not change. We used to say that the al-Tai'if agreement includes positive and negative points, that the positive points are great and that the negative points need more discussion and should be condemned. From this premise, the general's surprise is rejected, as many of his statements are rejected. I wish he could have written poetry and plays, since his statements entertain some people who like poetry and plays. But for him to entertain himself with poetry and plays when he influences the fate of a country is a catastrophe. This is a crime in the fullest sense of the word.

[Reporter] We have another point. Gen. 'Awn says that Samir Ja'ja' has broken the cover that protected him when he was a partner of B'abda and the Lebanese Army and that he will do the same with President al-Hirawi in the future. Do you think it is necessary to answer this allegation?

[Ja'ja'] Did I not tell you that the general is pleasant? I told you that but you do not belive me. Before protecting the Lebanese Forces, let Gen. 'Awn first protect himself. I will not say what else he should cover before covering

the Lebanese Forces. Did Gen. 'Awn provide a cover for us? The army, the real army, and not the clique which is with 'Awn, was truly protecting the whole country. This army has its future head and is still providing protection for the entire country. But was it Michel 'Awn and his group of small factionalists and mercenaries, who did worse than a[illegible] the war princes and militas did, who provided a cover for us? Can they protect anything? A thousand thanks to him. We do not want such a cover and thank you, brother. Perhaps he would use this cover to protect himself and his group and see what he will do for it.

[Reporter] The general accuses you of being the cause of inter-Christian and inter-Lebanese differences and believes that you cannot be part of a solution, because you have a big file in all the areas, not to mention your personal file.

[Ja'ja'] Let me write these things down because there are so many. I believe that the general is describing himself and is talking about himself. Inter-Christian differences have always existed in the various stages, but not in a single stage did the Christian-Christian differences reach the magnitude, climax, depth, violence, and destruction that they have reached under Gen. 'Awn. There were inter-Christian differences before, but this time, thanks to the talents of Gen. 'Awn, the inter-Christian dispute has taken a wider and more comprehensive course. Everyone is disagreeing with everyone, at all levels.

Regarding the inter-Lebanese differences, let me ask Gen. 'Awn something now: Who among all the Lebanese parties, including the Christians and all the other factions, would accept him just as a negotiator? As I told you, he is trying to describe himself. Who would accept him just as a negotiator, nothing more than than? Now he is blaming me for all the inter-Lebanese differences. He is giving me too much credit by saying that I am responsible for this. I am glad he did not blame me for the 1860, 1840, or 1305 incidents. You should remind him because perhaps he forgot to say it. He says that I cannot possibly be part of the solution. This is not his business, anyway. We in the Lebanese Forces, in cooperation with all the other factions in the Lebanese arena, will see if that is possible. At any rate, the near future, the very near future, will tell who will be part of the solution and who will be neither part of the solution nor of facts and reality.

As for my personal file, this is shameful. I wish, for the sake of our past comradeship, that Gen. 'Awn would show a little style. It is not worth it for someone who loses his political or military battle to lose his temper and resort to any means. He, personally, should not mention any talk of personal files at a time when the Paris reports could still attest to Gen. 'Awn's glorious deeds in this respect. I will decline to go any further on personal matters because this is shameful. We are trying to find a solution for an entire country. We are not some women exchanging insults. It is shameful for him to talk like this. At any rate, Gen. 'Awn will not be the judge in this regard; people will be. Reality speaks for itself. Therefore, let me tell Gen. 'Awn one thing: Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones. I do not want to go any further in the personal matters.

[Reporter] 'Awn says that al-Hirawi cannot protect you because he [words indistinct]

[Ja'ja'] Who is going to protect him, since he is concerned about my protection? Either al-Hirawi protects all the country... [changes thought]. The question is not whether al-Hirawi can protect me or not. I do not want anyone to protect me. Either al-Hirawi will be able to protect all the country or else it will not matter whether Nabil and George can provide the protection or whether Muhammad and Husayn cannot provide it. The fact is that this is not the issue. I do not know what Gen. 'Awn means when he says that al-Hirawi cannot protect us. What can he protect? Himself? What will happen?

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] in one of its articles, the agreement stipulates the abolition of the militias.

[Ja'ja'] Yes, 100 percent.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ja'ja] There is an intention that the Lebanese Forces should be abolished by another militia. We definitely will not allow any military force to abolish us for personal reasons and in order that this military force may dominate. We will not allow anyone to abolish us so that he may assume absolute power, strengthen the position of his own militia at the expense of the Lebanese Forces, and promote his personal interests and position. However, when it comes to the abolition of the militias within the framework of a general national plan to achieve a comprehensive solution in the country, rebuild a new state, resurrect Lebanon, and secure the future of our children and the coming generations, then we will abolish 100 militias. Let no one think that the militia we formed is a goal by itself. It is only a transient phase in the establishment of the state, because we know that no society can exist without the state. This is natural.

Therefore the provision in the al-Ta'if agreement for the dissolution of the militias is important. If the disbandment of the militias is comprehensive and complete and leads to the establishment of the state which we desire, then we will disband the militia 100 times over, not only once. But for Gen. 'Awn to attack the Lebanese Forces, kill or imprison its members, and mount not a military campaign but a crusade against the Lebanese Forces to strengthen his personal influence, then this is something which will never be accepted and which cannot be accomplished. However, we will certainly disband the militia within the framework of a comprehensive national solution and the construction of a new Lebanese state. The militia is not a goal in itself. This is natural. Why is the general preoccupied by this militia? He believes that we think the same way as he does. He is thinking about keeping his position. Merely in order to keep his position, he has destroyed the country. To keep

his position in B'abda, he has destroyed the country. He says that he is seeking nothing for himself. What a pity. This is indeed something which pains the heart. What shall I tell you? His indifference to power is unprecedented. But he says that he is holding on to his position there in order to fight the al-Ta'if agreement. Did he stay on to fight al-Ta'if or to fight us and the people of this country? Can anyone say how can he fight the al-Ta'if agreement from his present position and in his present status? Every moment that Gen. 'Awn stays in B'abda gives more strength to the al-Ta'if agreement. The way he is thinking, can the general tell us how he is fighting the al-Ta'if agreement? It is five months since the al-Ta'if agreement was drawn up. What has he done with his atrocious war against al-Ta'if?

I will tell him what he has done. He has destroyed and ruined the country, displaced the people, killed those whom he could kill, injured those whom he could injure, and forced others to emigrate. We no longer have any infrastructure, we have become completely isolated, and no one sides with us any more, while the al-Ta'if agreement remains there, intact. This is at a time when Syria is lending its full support to legitimacy. This is the result of the general's tactics. Great. Indeed, his tactics and political plans are glorious. This is on the political level. His military plans are praiseworthy. Enough. It is a shame that he should now ignore everything he said and express surprise at who started the war. If he wants to open personal files, let him do so. I do not know what is stopping him. He has been saying he will do this for two or three months. The problem in our country is that no one follows things through. For the past two or three months he has been saying: I will open the documents and provide the files. Do what you like but stop threatening to open the files. Open the files but let me tell you this: Always remember, General, that those who live in glass houses do not throw stones at the people.

[Reporter] Finally, the general asks in his interview: Who would believe that Dr. Ja'ja' wants to build the state when he has made all preparations to strike at the state and take over himself?

[Ja'ja'] If someone has an institution and organizes it, this does not mean that he does not want a state or that he wants to strike at the state. The biggest proof of this is the fact that the person who is now striking at the state is Gen. 'Awn; those who are working to build the state are the Lebanese Forces. We have the militia. The militia exists whether as militia or as an organized army. So it is better to maintain it as an organized army. The events of the past two months have proved this and proved the validity of this logic. If we are organizing ourselves and have organized ourselves, as is done in all the countries of the world and in the most advanced societies, does this mean that we do not want the state? This is like saying that someone has a factory, which he organizes very well, and he is told that he does not want the state because he is organizing yourself. They say that I have a militia. The militia exists anyway. So it is better to make it into an organized force. We are pushing and using this organized force to build the state. The biggest proof is what we are doing. Does anyone believe that it is possible to build a state in Lebanon at present as a result of what Gen. 'Awn is doing? No. Who is trying to build a state now? We are. We say let Ilyas al-Hirawi come so we can try. Gen. 'Awn took over a state with some of its parts intact. He dismembered it. I want to ask Gen. 'Awn about the state and its institutions. The Lebanese Army which he took over was in the best shape. Can he tell me where it is now? I am asking Gen. 'Awn: Where is the Lebanese Army? He had 12,000 or 15,000 soldiers here. I am not talking about the army which existed on the other side. Can he tell me how many are still with him now—2,000 or 3,000? What happened to the others, General? Where are the senior officers in the military establishment? Who is running the army now? A few lieutenants and captains? Where are the others? The army which numbered 15,000 has been reduced to 3,000. This is the army institution. Where are the rest of the state institutions? Where are the electricity authority, the water authority, and the Education Ministry? Is he making them all take part in demonstrations? Where is the water? Where is the electricity? Where are the schools? Where is the economy? Where are all the institutions? Where is the public administration? I want to ask every citizen what service he is getting. Are the roads being paved? Are telephone lines being connected? Is there an electricity supply? Is there a water supply? Do the citizen's sons go to school? Is the economy running? Can the citizen live? He has placed us in political isolation. Where is the Foreign Ministry? Where are all the state institutions and administrations? If anyone has destroyed and even totally paralyzed the state institutions, it is Gen. 'Awn. He has not left any state institution intact. When he took them over they were certainly not in the best of shape. But instead of improving them, he destroyed and paralyzed them completely. He formed a small militia, from the moral standpoint, in what remained of the state institutions. This militia has gathered around him and refuses to leave B'abda Palace for known reasons. No one can convince me that Gen. 'Awn is holding out at B'abda Palace for national reasons. The only thing the remnants of the state institutions can do is hold demonstrations and riots, cause chaos, talk about people, and spread rumors. Some remnants of public security, the intelligence service, the army's intelligence branch, and the Interior Ministry are only good for fabricating rumors. What does the Interior Ministry do? It is only engaged in spreading rumors. What work does the Ministry of Economy and Tourism do? It is busy with demonstrations. Therefore, he is the last person who is entitled to talk about the destruction of the state institutions and administrations. This is because, even during the height of the two-year war, the state institutions and administrations were in better shape than they are now and performed at least a small part of the required services. Now, however, there is nothing.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ja'ja'] What can we do? We have maintained silence over this situation. We kept silent out of our respect for

Gen. 'Awn's feelings. But Gen. 'Awn would not leave us alone. How long are we supposed to let the country suffer further deterioration and ruination for Gen. 'Awn's sake and in order to please him? I challenge all officials here to say that we are all suffering from the same problem. But no one would speak up. People are dying every day. Shall we let the people die just to please Gen. 'Awn and avoid hurting his feelings? How can he leave if he considers himself a national hero? What would he tell his people? I do not know what he will tell his people. This is not my problem. It is not I who involved him in such problems. It is he who involved himself in all these difficult situations to the extent that he does not know what to tell his people. What can he tell them? Can he tell them about the outcome of the liberation war, about the al-Ta'if accord, legitimacy, and the unification of rifles? Believe it or not, Gen. 'Awn is now talking about the unity of rifles. He is now focusing his efforts on unifying the rifles.

Actually, Gen. 'Awn has always been known for one basic single feature; namely, his failure. It is a failure accompanied by huge destruction. If you asked me about Gen. 'Awn's two principal features, I would tell you: Failure, [word indistinct] death, and [word indistinct] destruction. This reminds me of Hitler. I hope Hitler would not be angry with me for this comparison. Nevertheless, I meant to clarify the situation. Failure, death, and destruction. Failure death, and destruction. This is the cycle. Can anyone tell me what other practical results have been achieved? There is only failure, death, and destruction. We are in a vicious circle. Demonstrations, demonstrations, demonstrations every day. It is the irony of fate. Failure, death, and destruction. This is everything. These are all taking place in the name of nationalism, liberation, sovereignty, ethics, and the building of the state. What state is he trying to build? You could not even safeguard the remaining parts of the state.

We just cannot keep silent over all this. People are dying every day. People are starving every day. People are cold and are deprived of electricity. Students have been without schools for two years. For what reason? Just for his liberation war, the war for the unification of rifles, and for demonstrations. The schools have been closed for two years. This, in my opinion, is an unpardonable crime in itself. I know exactly what happens if we miss two years of education. But Gen. 'Awn has no idea of the consequences. What counts for Gen. 'Awn is not education but demonstrations.

It is a catastrophe, a catastrophe. We cannot remain silent, sir. You are asking me why I talk like this and you are telling me that we have reached the point of no return and the point of return. I do not care whether we reach the point of no return or the point of return with Gen. 'Awn. I am concerned that society should not reach the point of no return. If society goes on like this, it will indeed reach the point of no return. How long, and for what, will we remain silent in order to adapt to General 'Awn until he vacates B'abda in a miserable fashion? What is important is that the society should not be overwhelmed by misery and that it should survive. From this point of view, I believe that from now on silence itself is a crime. If we are silent about Gen. 'Awn, this does not mean that he should think himself a clever man and begin to put forth poetic theories. I hope that soon [words indistinct] and I propose that he take charge of the Jubayl festivals. He produces very good plays, indeed more successful than any play so far performed, with my apologies to the artists who now have a superstar [preceding word in English]. A new superstar is born [preceding sentence in English].

[Reporter] Doctor, do you expect any military explosions [words indistinct] in the coming stage?

[Ja'ja'] I hope not.

[Reporter] The contacts with President Ilyas al-Hirawi on practical issues [words indistinct]. How true are they and what point have they reached?

[Ja'ja'] As I have told you, contacts concerning several practical matters are under way. What is important however is that I can no longer remain silent about the situation as it stands now. I cannot continue to see people at the crossing points under sniper fire. I cannot go on watching people starve. It is terrible. You should see them, it is as if they were in al-Qarn Valley up in the North or in Nebraska in America, where [words indistinct] more than here. You would think you were in a desert. There is no electricity, no life, no economy, no nothing. For how long? What are we waiting for? Everyone is trying to please the general. Let us please the public instead of pleasing the general. Let us satisfy those who perished. [Words indistinct] and people are in a miserable condition.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] they are not able to take part of East Beirut before the problem has been resolved. If the situation remains unchanged...

[Ja'ja', interrupting] If matters remain as they are, only time will tell. We will not allow the people to be continually subjected to slaughter, maneuver, abuse, revilement, and histrionic acts, or to be a commodity for trade. In other words, you may expect us to take all measures to terminate this abnormal situation. We have had enough of this. I want to call on all officials in this country to shoulder their responsibilities. These are our people. Who is going to take care of them?

[Reporter] Will the Bkirki meeting [words indistinct]?

[Ja'ja'] Yes, it may.

[Reporter] Is there any imminent date to the meeting?

[Ja'ja'] No, not to my knowledge.

'Awn Says Eastern Area Facing 'Three Options'

NC0504122690 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] General Michel 'Awn has left it up to the Lebanese Forces to define the next option in the eastern areas. In an interview with the Voice of the People, he said that the existing situation in the eastern area will not last long. The eastern area, he stated, is facing three options: to undertake a bargaining process, achieve a balance, or decide the situation by military means. He said he is wagering that the members of the Lebanese Forces will reject Samir Ja'ja's policy.

Responding to Ja'ja's call for joining the legitimate authority, 'Awn said: If they want to join the legitimate authority then they must allow me the freedom of choice. We alone will decide whether to join or not. He added: Those who have dismissed the government through the al-Ta'if accord must find the solution. They have dismissed me. Let them rescind the dismissal and we will talk with them. They will either have to remove me by force or talk to me.

Asked about the nature of the dialogue he is seeking, 'Awn refused to answer, saying: We will put it on the table. Asked if he would agree to the al-Ta'if accord if he were appointed a to be minister and become part of the authority, he replied: This is a supposition which must come from those concerned, those who made the solution. 'Awn added that the mechanism for implementing the al- Ta'if accord is deficient and that a solution with Israel can be brought about only in agreement with Syria.

'Awn revealed that the basic point in the al-Ta'if accord which he rejects is the part concerning the president's authority.

Al-Hirawi To Respond to East Beirut Calls

NC0504120390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] There was an important development on the political scene today. This development will resolve the abnormal situation in the eastern area and will contribute to the peace process that the al-Ta'if document initiated for the whole of Lebanon.

Shortly before noon today, President Ilyas al-Hirawi announced that he will respond the appeal calling for the handover of the eastern areas to the legitimate authority.

President al-Hirawi made the announcement as he received a delegation from the general agricultural trade unions. We will listen to President al-Hirawi's statement as soon as we receive our correspondent's report from the temporary presidential palace.

Further on Al-Hirawi Response

NC0504130090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Excerpts] President Ilyas al-Hirawi announced today that he would respond to the appeal made in the eastern area for the handover of the military barracks there to the legitimate authority. This came in President al-Hirawi's address to a delegation from the general agricultural trade unions in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

President al-Hirawi had the following to say:

[Begin recording] Appeals to the legitimate authority were made in the eastern area, particularly to the Lebanese Army. I am anxious to preserve this institution because through it we will be able to consolidate the state's authority throughout Lebanon.

We thank those who appealed to legitimacy today. Certainly, we will respond to their appeal. I hope that the military establishment in the eastern area desires to defend its oath to the Lebanese flag and Lebanese legitimacy, and does not owe loyalty to an individual. [passage omitted] We welcome all the Lebanese to the legitimate authority. Our arms are stretched out to everyone, beginning with the military establishment and going on to include all other employees.

Some have accused legitimacy of seeking to deprive people of their livelihood and salaries. I would like to say here that I will not allow anyone to be deprived of his food, salary, or medical treatment, including social insurance. However, legitimacy will respond to the citizen to the extent that the citizen displays allegiance to legitimacy. Since they still follow the road of rebellion and mutiny the state cannot give to everyone. The state will give to the citizen who supports legitimacy. Perhaps there are factions which do not support legitimacy's policy.

This is a democratic country. We hope that the situation will soon return to normal, there will be free elections, and the representation in the Chamber of Deputies will be comprehensive. You may criticize, but it should be constructive criticism through the free press and the Chamber of Deputies. Criticism through mutiny and rebellion is unacceptable. We will resist this with all force. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Ja'ja' Appeal Viewed With 'Extreme Caution'

NC0504135090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] REUTER news agency has quoted official sources as saying that the legitimate government is treating Ja'ja's appeal for a takeover of army barracks in the areas under the control of the Lebanese Forces with extreme caution. The agency quoted a government official as saying: We do not want to have our soldiers get caught in the two combatants' cross fire, and we do not want our army to become a victim.

Presidential Sources on Barracks Takeover 'Plan'

NC0604153590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi continued his consultations today on the army's takeover of the barracks in the eastern area, meeting Defense Minister Albert Mansur and Army Commander General Emile Lahhud, who both visited Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and Minister Nabih Birri later.

Presidential sources emphasized that during the consultations the final touches were put to a military plan to take over the army barracks in Beirut, Kasrawan, and al-Matn. The same sources noted that the implementation of the plan might begin within hours and that the Lebanese Forces had made definite promises to facilitate the army's task and not to obstruct the state's plan to regain its control over the entire eastern areas.

VOL Cites Presidential Sources on Takeover

NC0504211690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] AFP this evening quoted an official presidential source as saying that the army command will shortly make new appointments in the eastern area's barracks. The appointees will supervise the organizations of these barracks.

REUTER cites a spokesman for President Ilyas al-Hirawi as saying that the forces which the president will send to the eastern area will take delivery of six large army barracks from the Lebanese Forces.

Meanwhile some West Beirut sources said that the legitimate government cannot ignore the call by Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' for the army under the command of General Emile Lahhud to take over its barracks. The sources added that the legitimate government will seek to ascertain two points before taking delivery of these barracks. The first point is the operational feasibility of such a step in light of the fact that the army barracks in the areas under Lebanese Forces control are like islands in a sea and the second is the durability of the position adopted by the Lebanese Forces commander, as the West Beirut sources put it.

Military Source Comments on Ja'ja's Stand

NC0604083690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] A well-informed military source has stated that the secret messages which an envoy of Ja'ja' has conveyed to President al-Hirawi, within the context of Ja'ja's call to the legitimate army to take over the eastern areas, did not contain a clear program for handing over the barracks. Primarily, under such a program, the military units in the Kasrawan area should declare their allegiance to the legitimate command.

The source added that the allegiance of Paul Faris and his group will not lend legitimacy's entry into Kasrawan any credibility on the ground, particularly since this group comprises not more than seven officers and 55 soldiers and noncommissioned officers. The source said that General Lahhud's command is chiefly concerned with the loyalty and discipline of these officers. The source indicated that the command is addressing Ja'ja's call with caution and that it will take many safeguards into consideration in any decision it may make.

Al-Khazin: 'Awn's Call for Dialogue 'Not Sincere'

PM0504142290 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Apr 90 p 3

[Unattributed report on interview with Lebanese Interior Minister Ilyas al-Khazin in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] Lebanese Interior Minister Ilyas al-Khazin has emphasized that the Lebanese Forces support the al-Ta'if agreement, "despite all that is being said." He pointed out that their position helped to reach the agreement. He also said: "The agreement was created to remain, not to fall, and those calling for its abolition are few."

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, al-Khazin accused General Michel 'Awn of sparking the military conflict in the eastern area "to end every political phenomenon in the eastern area so that he will become the only authority there." [passage omitted]

Al-Khazin said that the Lebanese Forces' proposal of the federation plan as a solution to the Lebanese crisis means not federalism in its true sense but, rather, an embodiment of the political decentralization stipulated by the al-Ta'if agreement. But the Forces called this decentralization a federation. If that decentralization is expanded, it would be more comprehensive than federalism. That distinction between decentralization and federalism will help all parties to reach an understanding.

He also noted that the situation in the eastern area is still dangerous, because some fighters are hiding behind the accord to achieve their objectives. They tell people that the agreement is not good, that it was created as an obstruction in order to forfeit the country and to perpetuate the presence of foreigners in it. Unfortunately there are still people who believe that.

Asked whether he considers the negative response to General 'Awn's recent call for an actual dialogue, he replied: General 'Awn's call is not sincere. Anyone who knows Michel 'Awn realizes that his call is not sincere, because he says something in the morning, something else in the afternoon, and something different again in the evening. He tends to make his statements according to his own circumstances. Besides, in what capacity is he calling for a dialogue? The legitimate authority does not consider that Gen. 'Awn represents any legitimate group or militia. He set up militias outside the framework of

the authority and outside the framework of the state, and he is using the state organs to secure his own interests. He does not represent a particular authority from which to proceed with negotiation, and he is no longer acceptable to us, even if he surrenders to the authority. In light of what has happened in the eastern area, he is no longer allowed to play any role. [passage omitted]

Asked whether he believes that a military solution in the eastern area is still on the cards, he said: All possibilities are in the cards today, especially if the military situation explodes again. [passage omitted]

Asked whether he had any information about the fate of the hostages detained in Lebanon, he said: All we know is the news we hear. We have nothing concrete to prove the truth of reports of the hostages' possible release. This is because the issue lies outside Lebanon's sphere of reality. [passage omitted]

Arab League's Ibrahimi on Carter Talks

PM0604135790 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Apr 90 p 2

[Interview with Lakhdar Ibrahimi, assistant secretary general of the Arab League and representative of the Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon, by Zaki Shihab in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shihab] You met with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in London. What did you discuss with him?

[Ibrahimi] First, President Jimmy Carter's interest in regional issues is something positive. And I believe that it is in our interest to encourage such interest and support it with all our strength. Second, cultural, political, and media circles in the Arab homeland are required to help explain the Arab issues to the outside world and to press Arab governments and states to enhance cooperation to find solutions to our regional problems.

[Shihab] Did you discuss the Arab efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis, and what the United States can offer in that regard?

[Ibrahimi] Regarding Lebanon, President Carter undoubtedly has an idea about the problem. And he discussed it with the people he met—first and foremost President Hafiz al-Asad. He asked if he and the center in the United States which bears his name could help in any way in the search for a solution to Lebanon's problem. I told him that the way to help is to become acquainted with the facts of the tragedy and then to use whatever channels he has to make contact with the various influential parties to press them to adopt stances and measures designed to contribute the problem's solution.

[Shihab] Will he convey to the U.S. Administration what was discussed at the meeting?

[Ibrahimi] President Carter said that he is in close contact with the U.S. Administration and that he always acquaints them with the results of his contacts and ideas. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] Are you optimistic that your contacts will produce concrete results in the near future?

[Ibrahimi] It has nothing to do with optimism or pessimism. The fact is that the Lebanese people have fallen victim to the oppression imposed on them. That oppression must be lifted.

Second: We cannot accept that Lebanon's predicament is a divine decree. It is a crisis created by people which can be resolved by people, and so the people must work together to resolve it. The elements of the crisis are known. And even if there is disagreement on the responsibility for and importance of these elements, I do not believe there can be any disagreement on the causes of the problem. And every part of the problem must necessarily be resolved.

[Shihab] You said some time ago that arms supplies to Lebanon had stopped. Is that true?

[Ibrahimi] It is no secret that we have told the world's states that Lebanon needs everything but arms—anything but arms, which Lebanon does not need. Anyone who provides arms to any quarter other than the authorities cannot say he is working for the Lebanese interests. [passage omitted]

Fadlallah on E. Beirut Fighting, Hostage-Taking

JN0604101290 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Apr 90 pp 1, 16

[By Ma'ruf al-Da'uq]

[Text] Beirut—Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Hizballah's spiritual guide, has said that the current war between the Army units loyal to General Michel 'Awn and the Lebanese Forces in the eastern areas is part of the Lebanese war, which moves from one position to another to complete the plot aiming at fragmenting Lebanon and depriving all positions of any cohesion that would enable them to face what is being planned for the future Lebanon.

In an interview with AL-RA'Y, Fadlallah said that he believes the war in east Beirut will not be a short one. It may abate here or there for a while, he said, until circumstances require that the situation lead to new pain. He described what had happened as an open wound that would be difficult to heal and that has led to weaker roles for each party. Now each is fighting for its existence, not for maintaining its size. He said: We cannot see any development that will allow the solution of the Lebanese situation in isolation from the Middle East crisis. The Lebanese smoke may even be a regional and international necessity to cover many of the schemes and plots that are being planned for the region.

Fadlallah played down the significance of his recent and first meeting with [Arab League envoy] Lakhdar Ibrahimi since the latter began his mission in Lebanon. He said the meeting was to review and assess the political situation—within and outside the framework of the al-Ta'if agreement—but it did not bring out anything new. He also said that the drift in the region's political circumstances must be studied to determine the impact that the events in the eastern areas will have on the success of the al-Ta'if agreement. He pointed out that the success of Lebanese agreements, even those that have an Arab or international ceiling, hinges on the security and political circumstances in the region.

He pointed out that the al-Ta'if agreement has reproduced Lebanon in a way that may be even worse than the 1943 formula as far as the Muslims are concerned. He said: We believe that the alternative to the sectarian system is a system that will give room to all Lebanese whereby no party will have more privileges than another. However, while we reject the al-Ta'if agreement, we are not working to add a new war because we believe that military battles cannot foil anything.

Fadlallah noted that dialogue between the Amal Movement and Hizballah to end the war in Iqlim al-Tuffah may require new conditions from outside Lebanon because the issue is connected with southern Lebanon, resistance, and the Palestinian-Israeli situation; it is not a minor issue that can be resolved through simple dialogue between two parties.

Fadlallah denied that he met with Carter in Damascus on the release of the hostages held in Lebanon. However, he referred to his pleas in educating the people to reject this method of political action and to close the hostage file despite the certain positive aspects of this issue on conflicts.

He said he was very anxious about Soviet Jewish immigration into Palestine, pointing out that the results will reflect on Lebanon in two ways: First, fires will be started on the Palestinian-Lebanese arena to weaken Palestinian capability in Lebanon; and, second, the Palestinians will be forced to go to Jordan and Lebanon. Thus, he said, Lebanon will carry another burden and the issue of settlement [of Palestinians in Lebanon] will be raised again to confuse the entire Lebanese political situation.

Israeli Warplanes Conduct Mock Raids Over Sidon

NC0504131990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1250 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] We have just received a flash from our newsdesk:

Since 1430, Israeli warplanes have been conducting mock raids over Sidon and the Palestinian camps at low altitude, drawing extensive ground fire.

PFLP Reports 9 Wounded in Israeli Raid

NC0504142490 Paris AFP in English 1404 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Beirut, April 5 (AFP)—Nine people, including five children, were hurt in an Israeli air strike on positions held by a radical Palestinian faction in a southern Lebanon refugee camp, the group said here Thursday.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), headed by George Habash, said four of its fighters were injured Wednesday when Israeli helicopters fired five rockets on the al-Rashidiyah camp 83 kilometers (50 miles) south of here. Five children were likewise injured, a group statement said, adding that the attack caused "major damage." An Israeli military spokesman earlier Thursday confirmed that Israeli aircraft had attacked a Palestinian "terrorist base" in southern Lebanon.

The PFLP is one of the three principal components in the Palestine Liberation Organization, the other two being Fatah, under Yasir 'Arafat, and Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Israeli aircraft have struck positions in Lebanon nine times this year, with four of the raids targeting Palestinian bases.

Cease-Fire Broken by Shelling in Eastern Areas

NC0504105790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Despite the fact that 'Awn and Ja'ja' have declared their commitment to halt propaganda campaigns and to cease fire in response to the appeal made by the Maronite pariarchs and bishops, artillery shelling is still taking place on the combat lines in the eastern area, especially in Kasrawan.

The commitment to halt the propaganda campaigns has not been honored. 'Awn's media have accused the Lebanese Forces of shelling the vicinity of the Presidential Palace and other areas in East Beirut as 'Awn was receiving Bishop Roland Abu-Jawdah, who gave him the text of the statement issued by the Maronite patriarchs and bishops.

VOL Reports 'Awn Forces Shelling Kasrawan Area

NC0504131790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1235 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] We have just received a report 'Awn emplacements in northern al-Matn are indiscriminately shelling villages in the coastal and central areas of Kasrawan.

Shelling Continues in Eastern Area

NC0504162490 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] The truce in the eastern area collapsed this afternoon. Clashes with machine guns and rockets between 'Awn's and Ja'ja's forces were resumed on the Kasrawan-al-Matn front at 1430 today. We have learned that an intense bombardment is being directed against the al-Ashrafiyah combat lines.

Lebanese Forces media reported that the coastal, central, and mountainous areas of Kasrawan came under artillery and rocket fire from 'Awn's positions in northern al-Matn. They added that al-Ashrafiyah was bombarded with artillery and rockets at 1530.

'Awn's media noted that the al-Yarzah army's positions in al-Dawrah, Sinn al-Fil, and Salome came under heavy machine gun fire. These media said that Ja'ja's call to the legitimate authorities to take over the military barracks in the eastern area is an obvious ploy.

Lebanese Forces media said that 'Awn's forces closed the Nahr al-Mawt-al-Dawrah and Salome-al-Nab'ah crossings with barricades to traffic from both sides this afternoon and prevented the citizens from crossing.

'Awn's Artillery Shells VOL

NC0504175890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1725 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] 'Awn's gunmen exacerbated the security situation this evening by directing concentrated artillery fire at residential areas in al-Ashrafiyah, al-Dawrah, Sinn al-Fil, and al-Karantinah. The criminal rounds fell in the vicinity of al-Rum Hospital in Beirut and on the Voice of Lebanon radio. Meanwhile, 'Awn's forces shelled the coastal and mountainous areas of Kasrawan. Citizens rushed to shelters to escape the destructive bombs and protect themselves from the fires which broke out in some cars and houses. There was a heavy concentration of fire against the Voice of Lebanon radio, which brings you vigilant, free, and truthful news. 'Awn's artillery shelled the station with dozens of destructive and incendiary rounds. No one at the radio station was injured, God be praised.

We would not be exaggerating if we told our listeners and others that incendiary shrapnel from one of the rounds hit some pages of this news bulletin, which will be saved for posterity in the hope that it will benefit the faithful some day.

The Fifth Branch of the General Staff Command of the Lebanese Forces issued the following statement this afternoon: At a time when the Lebanese Forces are adhering to the cease-fire and to the halting of the media campaigns in response to the appeal of the Maronite patriarch, 'Awn's units suddenly bombarded central and coastal Kasrawan this afternoon. A military truck loaded with ammunition was passing through the area at the time. It was hit by shellfire and exploded, but none of its crew was hurt. The explosion caused very heavy damage to buildings and property. The Lebanese Forces were compelled to respond to the sources of the shelling to silence them. The situation was unchanged as this statement was being prepared.

Five Reportedly Killed in Clashes

NC0504191190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Excerpts] In a clear signal of their intention to escalate the situation, 'Awn's units shelled the Lebanese Forces positions in the Nahr al-Kalb area this evening. Clashes with artillery, rockets, and machine guns are now taking place on the al-Dubayyah-Nahr al-Kalb combat lines. Intermittent clashes took place earlier on the new combat lines in Beirut and al-Qulay'at-Darayya. [passage omitted]

REUTER reports that several fires broke out in the al-Ashrafiyah and the port area. It cited security sources as saying that at least five persons and 10 wounded today.

'Tension Prevails' in Eastern Area

NC0504205390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Excerpt] The bombardment of residential areas in al-Ashrafiyah, al-Dawrah, al-Karantinah, and coastal and central Kasrawan and the Lebanese Forces positions on the newly created combat lines in Beirut has abated. A state of tension prevails on the Nahr-al-Kalb-al-Dubayyah front in the wake of the machine gun and artillery attacks which 'Awn's gunmen directed against Lebanese Forces positions on this front. [passage omitted]

5 Apr Casualty Toll Updated

NC0604071190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] The eastern area experienced a day of indiscriminate shellfire exchanged between the 'Awn groups and Lebanese Forces yesterday. Ten people were killed and 20 injured. Some shells landed in the West Beirut areas of Ra's al-Nab', al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq, 'Ayn al-Muraysah, and the port road, killing two soldiers and injuring three persons, including an officer of the Sixth Brigade.

Fighting Resumes 6 Apr

NC0604082690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Skirmishes involving machine guns and artillery are currently taking place on the newly created combat lines in the eastern area. Meanwhile, the port and Galerie al-Ittihad crossing points have been closed

due to heavy sniper fire. The Galerie al-Ittihad, Salome, and Nahr al-Mawt crossing points are now closed. [passage omitted]

In another development, a military source has stated that the army command [in West Beirut] will make new appointments in the eastern area's barracks preparatory to the takeover of the barracks by the legitimate authority. The source added that the legitimate authority is currently studying the appeals made in the eastern area in order to consolidate its control of the eastern area.

Meanwhile, the army command's guidance directorate has issued the following statement:

At 1750 on 5 April, the Sixth Brigade's positions in Ra's al-Nab' came under 120-mm mortar fire. This led to the martyrdom of Corporal Muhammad Yasin and Private 'Ali 'Awdah of the 62d battalion.

'Awn Forces Bomb Eastern Areas

NC0604114890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Clashes involving automatic weapons, artillery, and rockets are continuing on the Buick-al-'Adliyah-Museum and the al-Barjawi-al-Tibbiyah combat lines. The Lebanese Forces positions in the al-Sayyidah-Sinn al-Fil and al-Jisr al-Wati areas are coming under rocket and heavy- and medium-caliber machine gun fire.

We have just been informed that 'Awn's gunmen are now bombarding the Hotel Dieu and Museum vicinity with 122-mm mortars. The sound of explosions is reverberating in the capital.

Army Unit Destroys Equipment, Warns 'Awn

NC0504203090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2018 GMT 5 Apr 90

["Communique Number One" issued by the "Honor, Sacrifice, and Loyalty Unit of the Lebanese Army;" date and place not given]

[Text] The Honor, Sacrifice, and Loyalty Unit of the Lebanese Army [wihdat sharaf, tadhiya, wafa' fi al-jaysh al-lubnani] announced it was responsible for destroying five armored personnel carriers belonging to the 10th Brigade's 103d Battalion this afternoon. The unit warns Michel 'Awn and his group inside the army that it will continue to strike at this group and will pursue them wherever they are and in every area where they deploy until the commander, Michel 'Awn, relinquishes the army command.

The Honor, Sacrifice, and Loyalty Unit warns officers and enlisted men to stay away from the positions belonging to 'Awn and his group for their own protection. It calls on those who have been led astray by 'Awn to return to their military virtues and honor to save the army's reputation and preserve what is left of the military establishment which, despite what has been done to it by the rebel commander Michel 'Awn, remains the hope of all Lebanese people.

Amal, Hizballah Clash in Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC0604152190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] The situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah deteriorated this morning. Violent clashes with rockets and machine guns took place between Amal Movement and Hizballah on the combat lines. The two sides traded artillery fire. Rounds fell on Kafr Hatta, Sarba, Jurnaya, and Jarju'. Ahamd Musa was killed by shellfire in Jarju' village and five other citizens received various injuries. They were taken to 'Ala'-al-Din Hospital in al-Sarafand. Several houses were damaged and some cars were burned.

An official Amal Movement source accused Hizballah of starting the shelling, saying that 120-mm rounds fell on villages at the rate of five rounds per minute.

Resistance Claims Rocket Attack on Upper Galilee

NC0604102090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] National Resistance fighters this morning fired Katyusha rockets at the Upper Galilee area, directly hitting an group of vehicles belonging to the occupation forces near the border strip. Shortly afterward, the occupation forces mounted a wide-scale search campaign in the area, according to National Resistance sources.

Minister Al-Shar' on Iraqi Chemical Capability

TA0504073290 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 5 Apr 90 p 6

["Exclusive" by Eldad Beck in Paris]

[Excerpt] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met yesterday with his French counterpart Roland Dumas in Paris. They discussed the Israeli-Arab conflict and the situation in Lebanon. They dealt extensively with the situation in the territories and what the Syrian minister described as "the negative impact of the immigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine, which constitutes a threat to peace and stability in the region, as well as to the peace process."

At the end of the meeting, al-Shar' answered questions by HADASHOT regarding tension between Israel and Iraq in light of President Saddam Husayn's declaration on the use of chemical weapons.

[al-Shar'] We believe the cause of tension in the area is Israel's expansionist policy and the large arsenal it has, which includes nuclear and chemical weapons. We in Syria express solidarity with any Arab country that faces Israeli threats, because we believe that Israel, which occupies so much Arab land, is the Arabs' common enemy. The solidarity we express has nothing to do with potential differences of opinion we may have with any specific Arab country.

[Beck] Do you think the Iraqi chemical capability is a threat to Syria, too?

[al-Shar'] It would be insane and foolish to think the Arab countries that are militarily strong might threaten other Arab countries. Any Arab country that threatens another will find itself facing the entire Arab nation. Even in the case of arrogant muscle flexing or a campaign against us from some Arab countries, we only can express our support for these countries' people, who face the Israeli threat. In the course of the Paris conference on chemical weapons, Syria suggested ridding the Middle East of nuclear and biological weapons. This offer still stands, and we think all the current talk about alleged nuclear or chemical weapons possessed by the Arab side only is meant to serve as a means of extortion directed at the Arabs as a whole. If there had been a sincere desire for peace and security, Israel should have accepted our offer and declared the Middle East a region free of any lethal weapon. We are prepared to invest efforts toward this within the various UN forums. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Comments on Arab-EC Luxembourg Talks

PM0504150890 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Apr 90 pp 1, 2

['Abd-al-Hamid al-Yahyawi report: "Al-Shar' Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Like the Likud, Israel's Labor Party Wants Expansion, Not Peace"]

[Text] Luxembourg—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has stated that the Israeli leaders, whether they are from the Labor Party or the Likud, do not want peace, are working for further expansion, want to keep the occupied Arab territories, and are encouraging Jewish immigrants to build new settlements.

In a statement he made to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT after attending the meeting Monday and Tuesday between an Arab ministerial delegation and an EC one in Luxembourg, al-Shar' said the Israeli Labor Party confirmed in recent Knesset discussions it supports keeping Jerusalem as "Israel's unified capital," keeping the Golan under Israeli sovereignty, and that these two matters were not negotiable. He continued, "That is the Labor Party. The Likud says it never would withdraw a single foot from the occupied Arab territory. We can easily conclude the two main parties in Israel want further expansion."

He emphasized that the unified Arab delegation found a great understanding on the EC delegation's part concerning the dangers of the policy of settling Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories and of the threat it poses to peace.

He added: The Europeans asssured us they are opposed to the settlement of Jewish immigrants in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Syrian Golan, and East Jerusalem.

He also said the European delegation expressed support for an international conference for peace in the Middle East under UN supervision.

It is worth noting that, in addition to al-Shar', the Arab ministerial delegation included Tunisian Foreign Minister Ismail Khelil, PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi, and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

Qaddurah Addresses Lawmakers on Regional Peace

JN0504215690 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1710 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Nicosia, 5 Apr (SANA)—Mr. 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, head of the Syrian parliamentary group, said the Middle East question has not been settled yet because of Israel's intransigence and disregard of UN resolutions and international opinion. He explained Israel still is clinging to its expansionist policy and the occupation of Arab lands in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon.

In a speech today to the 83d conference of the Interparliamentary Union convening in Nicosia, Mr. Qaddurah said the establishment of a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East can be achieved through a UN-sponsored international conference with the participation of all concerned parties and the five permanent states of the Security Council to guarantee the full and comprehensive withdrawal of Israel from all occpied Arab territories and restore the Palestinians' national, inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination, repatriation, and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

The head of the Syrian parliamentary group denounced the immigration of Soviet Jews to, and their settlement in, occupied Palestine, pointing out neither those immigrants nor their forefathers ever were citizens of Palestine. Nor do they belong to the Israelites or the Semites, despite their accusations that those who hold different opinions are non-Semites.

Mr. Qaddurah explained those immigrants are the remnants of Khazars, who came from the Far East and settled in new areas and established their state there, which now is part of the Soviet Union.

He strongly denounced the recent U.S. Senate resolution acknowledging Arab Jerusalem as the capital of the Zionist entity and expressed Syria's rejection of this resolution. Mr. Qaddurah also declared Syria's support for the Arab peoples in all their fateful issues, and said the Arabs will continue to struggle until the Arab nation's objectives in liberation and unity are achieved.

The head of the Syrian parliamentary group concluded by saying: Syria wants the Mediterranean to be a lake where sea gulls fly instead of aircraft of destruction and killing. It also wants a just and comprehensive peace to be established in the Middle East and the entire world.

Afghanistan

2 Generals, 11 Others Killed in Fake Surrender

BK0604115090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1124 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Herat, Afghanistan, April 6 (AFP)—One government general and several other people were killed and several others wounded Friday [6 April] when resistance mujihidin claiming to surrender to the government opened fire at a ceremony here.

Herat Province Governor Fazle Haq Khaliq Yaar was the first to be shot and wounded as he embraced resistance commanders and addressed them in Pashtoon dialect in the ceremony, 45 kilometers (25 miles) from here.

A gunbattle flared between the generals' guards and the mujihidin when a team of Western journalists arrived at the site to report the event. At least 12 people, including officers, soldiers and children lay dead at the site of the massacre.

The general who was killed on the spot was identified as Lieutenant General Jalal Razaminda, a deputy security minister. A second general died in the rescue plane.

The skirmish lasted for 15 to 20 minutes. Kalashnikov and machine gun bullets raked the ground, and the 13 foreign journalists scattered for cover before it was cut short by machine gun fire from government tanks.

"We don't know why they fired," one of the wounded government commanders said. There were cries and screams from the crowd as many spectators were hit.

An AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE reporter had to run for one kilometer (one mile) [as received] supporting a wounded brigadier to a helicopter, but the helicopter took off to avoid the gunfire.

Journalists had been flown from Kabul, 1,200 kilometers (720 miles) away, to cover the ceremonial surrender of 3,000 armed resistance fighters and some 7,000 of their mujahidin supporters under president Najibullah's peace plan, known as national reconcilliation. None of the journalists, from France, Spain, Cuba, Britain and India, was hurt in the gunbattle. But a journalist from Afghan television was wounded by a gunshot in the head.

Kabul Claims 'Significant Victories' Over Rebels

BK0504154290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1521 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 5 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah's government Thursday [5 April] claimed significant victories in fights with mujahidin rebels and repeated that Kabul had not been surrounded by the resistance.

A government spokesman told reporters here that security forces had won several battles and captured large quantities of rockets, cannon shells and ammunition in operations against the mujahidin since Monday. Government troops captured more than 1,000 surface rockets, some 1,500 cannon shells and 2,000 mortars in Logar Province near Kabul, he said. The surface rockets were to be used by the resistance on civilian targets in cities and towns of Afghanistan, the spokesman said, adding that since the operation began Monday the mujahidin had not attacked any civilian areas.

Similar counter-rebel operations around Kabul during the past two days had led to the capture of an unspecified number of surface rockets and other weapons from rebel strongholds, the spokesman said. "Kabul is not encircled," he added.

He said Kabul had not recently fired the gigantic Soviet-made Scud missiles in keeping with a promise given by President Najibullah that they would be used only when civilians were attacked by rebels. "Right now there is no need to fire Scuds although the rebels have not accepted our offer," the spokesman said, referring to continuing guerrilla offensives on the cities of Jalalabad and Khowst. Earlier this year the Scuds were used against mujahidin targets in Afghanistan's east and south.

'Heavy Attacks' Reported in Khowst Grand District

LD0604065390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 5, BAKHTAR—During the past 3 days, contingents and detachments of the government armed forces in the Khowst Grand district repulsed heavy attacks of the enemies launched on a number of security posts around Khowst City, Torgharl, Khoshal, Lalmi, Tanai and Kakarai areas and killed 35 enemies. A service man was killed and 7 others wounded. Two civilians were also killed during the enemy fire an authorised military source said to a BAKHTAR military correspondent here today.

Reports reached BAKHTAR from the Nangarhar Province say that the extremists attacked on the Samarkhel, Behsud, Dashte-Gambiri and Kano Katarghai security posts on April 2-4, 1990. No one was killed or wounded. The Nangarhar Garrison retaliated and cleared 104 enemies from the battle ground.

According to another report, the armed extremists, Pakistanis and Saudi Wahhabis attacked the Gardara Baba, Sarpoosa, Towr Kowtal and Makwan security posts, Qandahar Province. The Qandahar Garrison retaliated and killed 19 enemies.

The war-mongers took under their heavy fire the security posts around the Kalat city, Zabol Province. No one was killed or wounded from the either sides.

Large quantities of arms and ammunition of the enemy were destroyed during those operations.

Troops Seize 1,000 Surface-to-Surface Missiles

LD0504195290 Kabul BAKHAR in English 0457 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 4, BAKHTAR—To prevent ground-to-ground rocket attacks on the residential areas of Kabul and other terroristic actions of the extremists, supported by Pakistan, contingents and detatchments of the General Command of the Kabul garrison carried out mopping up operations in the suburbs of Kabul city today.

According to another report during the mopping up operations of the contingents and detachments of the General Command for the defence of the revolution carried out in the Mohammad Agha district, Logar Province, over 1,000 ground-to-ground rockets, 2,000 mortar shells, 120 kg explosives and a quantity of light ammuniton were seized by that contingents.

A report reached BAKHTAR says that encharges of the anti-crime general department of the Interior Ministry bought a ground-to-air Strella-2 rocket from an armed opposition group in the Shakardara district, Kabul province today. The price of the rocket was paid to its saler on the spot.

Armed Opposition Members Join 'Government Side'

LD0604062790 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Names as received]

[Text] Kabul, April 5, BAKHTAR—Eleven armed opposition groups, consisting of over 1,040 men headed by Haji Abdul Shakoor, Salim Boy, Dr. Abdul Rahim Asif, Mohammad Nabi Pahlawan, Abdul Jabbar and Abdul Hakim gave up war and came over to the government side in Qal'eh-ye Zal District, Konduz Province lately, reported a BAKHTAR correspondent from Konduz. These groups, who were active previously in the Rabrani extremist group, were warmly welcomed by Abdullah, Konduz governor, state employees and a large number of inhabitants of that place.

Abdullah spoke, in a gathering held on the occasion, on country's military-political situation. Peaceful proposals of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] state for ensurance of peace and highly appreciated the initiative of the said groups, who avoided fatricidal war. He considered their joining to the national reconciliation policy as a concrete step in safeguarding of a nation-wide peace and implementation of humanistic goals of the said policy.

Reciprocally, a number of heads of the groups on behalf of their men stated that, onwards they will tirelessly work for keeping peace and realization of national reconciliation [NR] policy. With the joining of these groups to the NR policy, 15 villages resumed their peaceful life there.

Simultaneously, a coalition administration was set up in that district. Four ringleaders of the groups were elected as district administrator, mayor, armed forces commander and deputy principle of a high school.

National Intermediary Commission Discusses Work

LD0504192190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 4, BAKHTAR—Session of the national intermediary commission "between the republic of Afghanistan government and opposition" of Afghanistan presided over by Kamaluddin Ishaqzai, chairman of the commission, was held here today.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reported that matters relating to the works and activities of the members of the commission in Herat, Faryab and Sar-e-Pol provinces were discussed and later were referred to concerned organs for adopting appropriate measures.

Najibullah Evaluates Instruction of Armed Forces

LD0604062390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 5, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, today participated in the methodic lessons on the further evolution, mobilisation and administration of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, reports BAKHTAR military correspondent.

Several lecturers including Full General Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, defence minister, Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, minister of State Security and Full General Muhammad Asef Delawar, armed forces chiefs of staffs delivered lectures on the subject. They in their lectures threw light on different aspects related to the mobilisation, administration and its subsequent evolution in the Armed Forces of the Republc of Afghanistan.

At the end, the conduct of the lessons was evaluated by President Najibullah, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, who singled out the existing flaws and gave the necessary guidelines to the audience about the subjects under discussion.

The conference were also attended by Full General Muhammad Rafi', the republic vice-president, Raz M. Pakti, minister of interior, members of defence high council and other dignitaries of the Armed Forces.

Najibullah Discusses Coup Attempt, Fighting

NC0504152590 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 1 Apr 90 p 10

["Exclusive" interview with Dr. Najibullah, president of the Revolutionary Council of Afghanistan, by MILLIYET correspondent Vahap Yazaroglu; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Yazaroglu] Mr. President, what did you feel when bombs were exploding very close to you during the attempted coup? What did you feel at such a time? What was your first reaction?

[Najibullah] I am the son of the Muslim people of Afghanistan. I trust only God at such times. The Koran says that whether a person lives or dies depends on God's will and wish. Our life is in His hands. [passage omitted]

[Yazaroglu] You are said to have been aware of the coup attempt long before it actually took place.... If so, why did you not take measures before Tanay began his coup attempt?

[Najibullah] Yes, that is true. We knew that a coup attempt would take place. The state was aware of the secret and treacherous efforts of those who participated, and it took the necessary measures. The coupists had links with foreign military circles and sources, and our intelligence units were closely following their secret preparations in order to suppress and repulse the coup attempt within a few hours after it began. Had we intervened before the coup attempt was actually launched, our move could have created unexpected and negative developments. There could have been a lot of bloodshed. The outcome could have been grave and tragic for our people.

[Yazaroglu] The coup attempt has been described as the outcome of the recently intensified dispute between the Masses and the Banner factions of the ruling party. Looking at the matter from this viewpoint, has the coup attempt not weakened the people's confidence in the regime?

[Najibullah] The coup attempt was organized by opportunistic, selfish, and ambitious individuals, who were supported by a number of foreign intelligence organizations and external forces, particularly by the secret intelligence organization in Pakistan. We have not come across separatist elements. In view of this, the matter was not linked with the old dispute between the Banner and the Masses factions within the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Furthermore, the coup attempt has not weakened party unity. On the contrary, it strengthened it. The party members are sincerely rallying around the party at the present time. Meanwhile, the people's confidence in and respect for the party, which is waging a struggle against every kind of difficulty and obstruction, are gradually increasing.

The Armed Forces of Afghanistan proved during the the coup attempt that they are strong enough to suppress and repulse resolutely every kind of treachery and attack by internal enemies. Everyone should clearly understand that the Afghan army is militarily prepared and has the capability to safeguard Afghanistan's independence and national sovereignty against hostile plans and treacherous attempts.

[Yazaroglu] The Turkish people have been following the violent internal war in Afghanistan, which has continued for 11 years, with concern. They hope the war ends before too long. Do you believe that you still have to cover a great distance before peace is established in your country or do you believe that peace is not too far away?

[Najibullah] We wish to thank the Turkish people, who closely follow the unfortunate developments in Afghanistan and are grieved by the war and by the fratricide in our country. The wish of the Turkish people is very natural, because the peoples of the two countries are bound by long-term traditional and cultural ties and common interests. We hope that foreign interference, particularly from Pakistan, will be halted and the armed sides, which are opposed to each other, will move to demonstrate their willingness to settle their disputes through negotiations.

The disputes will be quickly resolved and the war and the fratricide will end if the countries, which have become guarantors by signing the Geneva Agreement, move to fulfill their pledges. This will create an atmosphere of national peace in our country.

I can say that we can cooperate with Turkey for the establishment of peace and political reconciliation in Afghanistan. We want Turkey, which has a valuable place in international organizations and among the countries in the region, particularly in the Islamic Conference Organization, to use its influence on these countries and organizations in favor of the Afghan problem. With its standing and special position, Turkey can persuade the countries, which are parties to the dispute, to hold a dialogue aimed at establishing peace.

Turkey is an Asian country. However, a part of it is in Europe. It is very close to the Western world. It is in the middle of Asia and Europe. Due to its very special position, it can become a bridge between the Western world and Afghanistan. Furthermore, Turkey can help us restore Afghanistan's relations with those Western and other countries that have been cut because of the special conditions in our country.

We can establish mutual trade and economic relations between Turkey and Afghanistan. Considering the high rate of development Turkey has achieved in the economic, social, industrial, and technological fields, we can predict that Afghanistan, which has a liberal economic system, can be a good market for Turkey's products. In view of the new economic policy we have adopted, we have invited all the foreign countries and foreign investors to Afghanistan. Turkish businessmen can make investments in Afghanistan with their own capital as well.

Furthermore, we can establish multisided cultural relations between Turkey and Afghanistan as of this moment.

Parliamentary Commissions Adopt Decisions

LD0604060490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 5, BAKHTAR—Permanent commissions of the house of representatives set in sessions

today. A BAKHTAR parliamentary correspondent reported that the Commissions for Defence, National Security, Nationalities Affairs Complaint and Protection of the People's Rights, after thorough discussion of their related topics, adopted necessary decisions.

According to another report the permanent commissions of the Senate in their sessions held during the day discussed matters relating to defence, national security, science and culture, social affairs, commerce, industry, kuchis (nomads) and transport and adopted appropriate decisions.

The Commission of Agriculture and Land Reforms and Water Resources of the Senate decided that the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reforms should take necessary measurs for the eradication of locust in the Farah Province soon.

Najibullah Sends Message to Hungary's Szuros

LD0504194590 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 4, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA), and Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the RA, have sent congratulatory message to Budapest addressed to Matyas Szuros, acting president, and Miklos Nemeth, prime minister of the Republic of Hungary, on the occasion of the independence day of their country today. In the message confidence has been expressed on the fact that the existing friendly relations between the two countries will be further expanded in the interest of the people of the two countries as well as international security.

Meanwhile, 'Abdul Wakil minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, has also sent a similar message to the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Hungary on the said occasion. Likewise, Dr. Mahmud Habibi, speaker of the Senate of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan, has also sent to Budapest a congratulatory message addressed to Founder Estowan, chairman of the parliament of the Republic of Hungary, on the occasion of the independence day of that country today.

Najibullah Receives Message From Yasir 'Arafat

LD0504221890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met this afternoon with Abu-Khales, special envoy and adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, head of state and leader of the PLO, in the headquarters of the Presidency. In this meeting, Abu-Khales presented a message and best wishes of Yasir 'Arafat in connection with the foiling of the failed anti-national reconciliation policy coup d'etat in the Republic of Afghanistan and support for the peaceful measures of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Then esteemed Najibullah spoke about the country's military-political situation and expressed appreciation for the message and best wishes of Yasir 'Arafat. During the meeting, the esteemed president of Afghanistan stressed the stand of the Republic of Afghanistan toward ending war and bloodshed in the country and resolving the Afghan issue by peaceful means and gave information about the measures of the Republic of Afghanistan to expand and deepen the national reconciliation policy.

'Abawa Receives Message From CSSR's Dubcek

LD0504193490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 4, BAKHTAR—The message of gratitude of Alexander Dupcek, chairman of the Federal Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia in reply to the congratulatory message of Dr. Khalil Ahmad 'Abawi, speaker of the lower house of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan, sent already to Prague on the occasion of Dupcek election as a chairman of the Federal Assembly of Czechoslovakia, has been received today in Kabul. The message expresses the hope that existed friendly relations between the two parliaments will be expanded in the future.

Bangladesh

Ershad Pledges To 'Curb Violence' on Campus

BK0604013090 Hong Kong AFP in English 2311 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Dhaka, April 5 (AFP)—President Hussain Mohammad Ershad Thursday said that his government would do its utmost to curb violence on the Dhaka University campus and restore an academic atmosphere. "My government has no political stake on the campus nor have we wanted to establish sphere of influence there and that was made clear by dissolving Jatiya Party s student wing," the president was quoted by the official BSS News Agency as saying at a meeting with the members of the university syndicate. The ruling Jatiya Party's student wing was dissolved by Mr. Ershad in 1986, saying that it would help restore calm and enable students to pursue proper education on the campus.

Mr. Ershad's comments came two days before the university reopens Saturday after about a 40-day unscheduled closure. The university was shut down after a gunbattle in February left a student killed and its former Vice Chancellor Abdul Mannan injured.

Mr. Mannan resigned March 23 after student activists said calm would return to the campus only when he stepped down. The president, who is the chancellor of the country's six universities, immediately replaced him with Mohammad Moniruzzaman Mia.

Witnesses said many students returned to the campus Thursday after authorities permitted them to return to their dormitories in preparation for the scheduled opening.

Mr. Ershad also assured the members of the syndicate of total cooperation and said his government never interfered with university affairs and would "not like to do so in the future," adding that he hoped all concerned would join in the efforts taken for restoring calm on the campus for its success. The syndicate is the university's highest policy making body.

University authorities earlier ordered students to carry identity cards at all times after the violence-prone school reopened. Some 24,000 students are enrolled in the university, a hot-bed of Bangladesh student politics.

Vice Chancellor Mia sought total cooperation of the administration to fight campus violence and was quoted by BSS as saying that "active assistance of the law enforcing agencies would be needed most in this regard."

Meanwhile, 22 student organisation and the Dhaka University Central Students Union in separate statements published here Thursday pledged their support for the authorities in curbing terrorism on the campus. They also demanded punishment of those responsible for violence.

According to unofficial estimates, at least 20 students have been killed and 400 injured since August last year when renewed violence gripped the 68-year-old university.

Officials Detain 4 Suspected Drug Traffickers

BK0604092890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0708 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Dhaka, April 6 (AFP)—Bangladeshi anti-narcotics officials have detained four suspected local drug smugglers in a southeastern port city and recovered one kilogram (2.2 pounds) of cocaine, officials here said Friday [6 April]. They said the four alleged smugglers were arrested in their hotel room in the port city of Chittagong Thursday, and more details would be available when they were brought to Dhaka.

Newspapers here reported Friday that the four were connected with the Italian Mafia, but officials said they could not confirm that immediately.

A week ago a Nigerian national, Innocent Novousi Engbunine, also suspected to be a member of the Mafia ring, was arrested after anti-narcotics officials allegedly recovered three kilograms (6.6. pounds) of heroin from his room in a rest house located in Dhaka's Gulshan diplomatic enclave. Officials said Mr. Engbunine would appear in court Saturday.

In recent years, Bangladesh has become a major market for drugs, sited at the end of routes from the notorious Golden Crescent (Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran), and Golden Triangle (Thailand, Burma and Laos) areas. The country has some seven million drug addicts and the number is growing, according to social workers.

India

Coalition Ally: Singh Tapping Leaders' Phones

BK0604010890 Hong Kong AFP in English 2007 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] New Delhi, April 5 (AFP)—A senior colleague of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's Janata Dal (People's Party) has alleged he is being bugged by the new government's agencies, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Thursday.

Chandra Shekhar, an MP, alleged that his telephones and those of some 27 other unnamed politicians were being tapped by the four-month-old administration of Mr. V.P. Singh, PTI said.

"If I start revealing the truth, this government will be in deep trouble," the 63-year-old Mr. Shekhar, who was president of the now-defunct Janata Party which ruled India in 1977-79, said in a press interview.

"I have nothing in common with the people who lead it (the present government)," he was quoted by PTI as having told Bombay-based ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY.

Mr. Shekhar, who had threatened to contest for the office of prime minister against Mr. V.P.Singh after the November poll victory of the multi-party National Front of which Janata Dal is partner, ridiculed the new premier's claim to "value-based politics."

"You talk of this highly moral, value-based government," he said in the interview. "Do you know they have tapped all my phones?

"Not just that, they have bugged even the rooms. I have checked it out with the debugger... is this value-based politics?" Mr. Shekhar was quoted as having told the WEEKLY, one of India's most popular English-language news magazines.

Issue Raised in Lok Sabha

BK0604091990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] The Lok Sabha witnessed noisy scenes during zero hour, leading to the adjournment of the house till 1500 today. The trouble broke out when several Congress-I members referred to a report appearing in a section of the press about the allegations made by a senior Janata Dal leader on telephone tapping. They demanded an immediate statement by the home minister and the communications minister. They also wanted a discussion on the matter. The speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, told them that he has received several notices on the subject, and these are under consideration. This did not satisfy the Congress-I members. Shouts and countershouts continued for about 20 minutes, and nothing could be heard in the din. The speaker adjourned the house till 1500 when his repeated pleas for order did not yield any result.

'Sikh Militants' Suspected in Haryana Bomb Blast

BK0504144690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1418 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Chandigarh, India, April 5 (AFP)—At least 10 people were killed and 22 injured Thursday [5 April] when a powerful bomb exploded on a New Delhi-bound bus in the northern Indian state of Haryana, police said here. The explosion was suspected to be the handiwork of Sikh militants fighting for the secession of Punjab state neighbouring Haryana, although no one immediately claimed responsibility for the blast.

A police spokesman said in Chandigarh, joint capital of Punjab and Haryana, that the bomb went off at about 5.15 p.m. local time (1145 GMT) when the bus reached Panipat bus stand, about 90 kilometres (55 miles) from the Indian capital. The bus was on its way from the Haryana town of Yamunanagar to New Delhi, a distance of about 200 kilometres (120 miles).

The spokesman said 22 people were injured, many seriously, and hospitalised. He added that security had been tightened in Haryana amid fears of an anti-Sikh backlash.

Thursday's blast came two days after 40 people were killed in a bomb explosion in the Punjab town of Batala as Hindus celebrated a religious holiday. Police suspected the Sikh separatist group Babbar Khalsa, which specialises in bombings, to have been responsible for the first blast.

10 Reported Dead, 22 Injured

BK0504155690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] In Haryana, at least 10 persons were killed and 22 injured in a powerful bomb blast in a DTC [Delhi Transport Corporation] bus at the Panipat bus stand this evening. The bus was on its way from Yamunanagar to Delhi.

According to an official spokesman, the injured have been admitted in the hospital. Senior civil and police officials have rushed to the spot. The chief minister, Mr. Om Prakash Chautala, has expressed shock and grief at the incident and conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved families. He has directed the district authorities in the state to exercise greater vigilance in order to prevent such happenings. He announced an ex-gratia grant of 20,000 rupees to the next of kin of those killed in the blast.

The minister for surface transport, Mr. K.P. Unnikrishnan, has expressed deep distress over the bomb explosion. He has instructed the chairman of the DTC to render the necessary assistance to the victims.

Venkataraman's Activities in London Reported

BK0604041290 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, today visited historic places of importance in and around London. He will be hosting a return banquet tonight in honor of the British queen.

Reports from London say that Mr. Venkataraman's talks with the British leadership yesterday gave a new direction to the Indo-British relations. The wide-ranging discussions covered almost all problems facing the world today, including terrorism, fundamentalism, changes in Europe, and the situation in Southern Africa.

Supreme Soviet Chairman Holds Talks With Singh

BK0504161990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] The Soviet Union has made it clear that developments in Kashmir are strictly an internal matter of India, and the Simla agreement is the basis for resolving differences between India and Pakistan. This was conveyed by the chairman of the USSR's Supreme Soviet, Mr. A.I. Lukyanov, during his talks with the prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, in New Delhi today. Mr. Lukyanov is leading a Soviet parliamentary delegation to India. He was accompanied by the Soviet first deputy foreign minister, Mr. Vorontsov, and the Soviet ambassador to India when he called on the prime minister.

Mr. Lukyanov said that the Soviet Union strongly opposes efforts to internationalize the Kashmir issue. He also said that the Soviet Union supports the unity and territorial integrity of India. Mr. V.P. Singh said that India greatly appreciates the consistent Soviet support.

Briefing newsmen on the deliberations, an official spokesman said that they had a very warm and friendly meeting, which lasted for 80 minutes. During the talks, the Soviet leader briefed the prime minister on the internal situation in the Soviet Union and economic reforms under perestroyka.

Mr. V.P. Singh said we wish President Gorbachev every success in his policies. Mr. V.P. Singh said that Mr. Lukyanov's visit is particularly noteworthy since it is the first high-level visit from the Soviet Union after the new government took over. Both leaders reiterated their resolve to deepen cooperation in all fields within the framework of existing arrangements and understandings.

UAE Oil Minister Meets With Prime Minister

BK0504161690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] The United Arab Emirates [UAE] has conveyed to India that it is opposed to the policy of raking up the Kashmir issue and described as unacceptable infiltrations from across the border. This was conveyed by the

UAE oil minister, Mr. al-'Utaybah, when he called on the prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, in New Delhi today.

The UAE minister is visiting India as a special envoy of the president of the UAE, Shaykh Zayid. The visiting minister had a 40-minute meeting with the prime minister, Mr. V.P.Singh, and discussed Indo-UAE relations and regional and international issues. Briefing newsmen on the deliberations, an official spokesman said that during the meeting it was also stated that Jammu and Kashmir is an internal affair of India, which can be solved easily on the basis of the Simla agreement.

'Subversives' Arrested in Kashmir; Curfew Relaxed

BK0604040690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] In the Kashmir Valley, seven subversives, including a head constable of the state police, were arrested yesterday. On interrogation, it was revealed that the head constable was taking active part in carrying out subversive activities. Three of the subversives were arrested on the Srinagar-Baramula road, while four were from Srinagar city. The security forces nabbed two persons in Sopor for harboring the subversives.

Meanwhile, the curfew has been relaxed in Srinagar for 10 hours from 0500 [2330 GMT] this morning.

Kashmir Court Admits Petition Against Governor

BK0604104490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir high court today admitted a writ petition, challenging the dissolution of the State Assembly by the governor. The petition has been filed by six former legislators—five of them of Congress-I and one of National Conference. The chief justice, Justice (S.S. Khan) ordered the hearing on the petition by a division bench to start from the 30th of this month.

The chief justice rejected another petition seeking to restrain the state governor from performing his functions. He said the petition, if allowed, would create chaotic conditions in the state in the absence of an elected government.

China Reportedly Cautioned Pakistan on Kashmir

BK0504094790 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 28 Mar 90 p 22

[By M.K. Dhar]

[Text] New Delhi, March 27—The Chinese are reported to have cautioned Pakistan against resorting to direct interference in Kashmir which might give rise to a situation of confrontation and conflict between India and Pakistan.

While China has no intention to mediate between India and Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir issue, it has veered round to the view that both parties must adhere to the Simla process and not allow their relations to deteriorate further.

During the recent visit of the Chinese foreign Minister, Mr. Qian Qichen, the Indian leadership made it known that religious fundamentalism was unacceptable and secession of any part of India territory could not be allowed. Just as India fully supported Chinese rights in Tibet and did not allow any anti-Chinese political activity to be conducted from its soil, it expected China to caution Pakistan, with which it has a special defence relationship, not to meddle in India's internal affairs by stoking the fires of secessionism.

Mr. Qian gave a patient hearing to the Indian exposition of the case on Kashmir, where a nexus is developing between terrorism and fundamentalism. He has told one could not set aside the unity of the Indian State and the concept of secular functioning. Whereas India and China were committed to conducting their relations on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence, Pakistan was doing exactly the opposite by interfering in India's internal affairs and sending in arms and trained saboteurs.

Prime Ministr V.P. Singh and External Affairs Minister I.K. Gujral both made it plain that India could not permit its secular fabric, based on cherished values, to be destroyed. The Indian argument went home and Mr. Qian made it clear that China was not taking sides on this question and desired that India and Pakistan should peacefully resolve it without outside interference. At the same time it did not want the situation in the subcontinent to deteriorate irretrievably.

China has similarly been counselling patience on Nepal as well in its dispute with India over trade and transit rights. The Chinese Prime Minister, Li Peng, who was recently in Kathmandu, made it clear to the Nepalese leadership that China was in no position to pull them out of the present crisis and that realism demanded that they sorted out their problems with India through direct negotiations. Mr Qian was obviously satisfied to hear from Mr Gujral that the differences were in the process of being resolved through a friendly, candid and comprehensive dialogue and an agreement on trade and transit rights was in sight.

The Chinese Government, anxious to establish a working relationship with the National Front Government in India, was eager to know whether in the realm of foreign policy there was any departure from that pursued by the Government headed by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi.

The Chinese sought a clear assurance on that point, which was given. The India side maintained that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China in December 1988 represented a major departure in the relations between the two countries and enabled both to lay behind the earlier

legacy of mistrust and suspicion and to launch a new process of mutual discovery and common understanding.

Mr. Qian was equally assertive on this point. Certain misgivings had been created by statements by Railway Minister George Fernandes about support for Tibetan Independence. These were clarified by the Indian side as representing Mr Fernandes's personal views and not those of the Government of India, which remained unchanged.

The two countries have decided to further strengthen their relations in the economic, scientific and cultural fields. During Mr. Gandhi's visit, three agreements, one on cooperation in the field of science and technology, second on civil air transport and the third on cultural cooperation, were signed. The Chinese side has suggested that the implementation of these agreements could be speeded up. Mr. Qian also maintained that as long as the two countries observed the five principles and acted in the spirit of mutual understanding and mutual accommodation, and worked through friendly consultations, the ironing out of all differences on the boundary issue was only a matter of time. He also made it clear that unilateral concessions could lead to "a mutually acceptable solution", implying that India must give concessions in the eastern sector of the boundary before expecting corresponding concessions from the Chinese in the Western Sector.

At any rate, the two countries are agreed that the boundary issue is a historic legacy that involves the emotions of the two peoples and neither side could unrealisticaly expect a solution to emerge from the single meeting of the Joint Working Group [JWC]. Some progress was made at the first meeting of the JWC in July last in Beijing and the thread is to be picked up at the next meeting in New Delhi the second half of the current year.

Curfew Imposed in Ahmedabad After 1 Killed

BK0504131390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] In Gujarat, indefinite curfew was imposed in some parts of Gomtipur police station of Ahmedabad at noon today following incidents of stabbing in which one person died and three others were injured. The situation in Gomtipur, Daryapur, and Kalanpur of Ahmedabad City is tense. Police burst tear gas shells and fired some rounds in the air to disperse a violent mob indulging in arson and stone throwing. According to the police, the situation is reported to be under control.

Bill Extending President Rule in Punjab Passed

BK0504132690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] The Lok Sabha today passed the constitution amendment bill seeking to extend the president's rule in Punjab for another six months beyond the 10th of next month. The voting was by division; 399 members voted in its favor and three against. Three members abstained.

Replying to the debate, the home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, said that the political process in the state is being activated by mobilizing the people. He said the government has also initiated a number of steps to check terrorism. Besides intensifying patrolling and stepping up surveillance along the border, work on barbed wire fencing is also in full swing. More observation towers are being erected and flood light arrangements done. The minister said the government is also stepping up riverine patrolling both in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

Underlining the need for enlisting the cooperation of the local people, the home minister said several village post pickets are being set up in sensitive areas. Mr. Sayeed the civil authorities have been given more role in the administration. Public grievance redressal machinery has also been set up.

Earlier, during the brief debate, members expressed serious concern over continuing terrorist activities in Punjab and called for stern action against the extremists. They also wanted that conditions should be created for holding early assembly elections. Our correspondent says that through an amendment moved by the home minister the number of the constitution amendment bill was changed from 65th to 64th before its final adoption. Our correspondent adds that the passage of the bill clears the technical snag caused by the failure of an identical bill to secure the approval of the house on the 30th of last month for want of requisite voting strength. The bill will now go the Rajya Sabha which has been convened to meet on Monday and Tuesday next [9 and 10 April] to consider and pass it.

Punjab Strike Call Evokes Mixed Response

BK0504133090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] In Punjab, the bundh [strike] call given by five major political parties for today evoked mixed response. The call had been given by CPI [Communist Party of India], CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], Janata Dal and Akali Dal-Longowal in protest against the Batala bomb blast. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere in the state.

In Delhi, all wholesale commodity markets and the bullion markets remained closed today in response to the bundh call. There was no trading in the stock exchange today.

Researchers Say Tank Project Faces More Delays

BK0604095290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0753 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] New Delhi, April 6 (AFP)—India's hopes of building its own battle tank for induction into the Army by 1995 have been set back by an array of snags mainly related to the engine, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said this week.

The tank, named Arjun, is unlikely to be commissioned according to schedule because of the problems plaguing the 14-year-old project, PTI quoted a non-official defence research publication as saying.

At the start of the project 14 years ago, India had hoped to equip 10 regiments with Arjun tanks by 1995 and produce 100 tanks a year.

"This is an extremely remote possibility," PTI quoted a report in the monthly Indian DEFENCE REVIEW as saying. "As far as perspective planning for the eighth plan is concerned, it is not expected that any Arjun tanks will be in service at all before the ninth five-year plan (which starts 1995)."

Maintenance problems which frequently disrupted sustained runs and minor defects that necessitated frequent repairs and resulted in loss of time plagued field trials of the Arjun, the REVIEW said.

"Under operational conditions, this sort of thing will be disastrous," it said, adding that India did not have "state of the art" technology in several problem areas concerning the project, it said.

The review cited the dimensions of the Arjun, which it said were huge compared to other tanks in the world, reducing its tactical and strategic mobility. It is not provided with "reactive armour" to withstand attacks by advanced missiles and the design of its track was mediocre, resembling the U.S. M-47 of the 1940's.

"What we must accept is a realistic time-frame and stop deluding ourselves as to our capabilities," the REVIEW said, calling for a concerted effort to overcome the problems.

The report in the REVIEW, based on its own research, followed a recent report by the U.S. DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS weekly which said the Indian-developed diesel engine for the Arjun was unable to generate requisite power.

The weekly said the impasse over the engine had led to a division in the development team as to whether the tank's diesel engine should be abandoned in favor of a turbine engine.

Iran

Paper Links Hostage Issue, 'Fake' Phone Call

PM0504140090 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 21 Mar 90 p 22

[Unattributed commentary: "Fake Telephone Call to the White House, Presumptions, Messages"]

[Text] Last week the issue of the Western hostages in Beirut once again took over a good deal of the news, analysis, and reports in the world's media. This occurred after Steve Hart, a White House spokesman, commented on a telephone contact between the U.S. President and a man calling himself the president of Iran. Later Hart said: It appears that this telephone contact was a joke.

Following this news, there was a lot of analysis on the issue and many comments were made. The question also brought about a lot of uncertainties. It was asked why the seemingly complex and sophisticated intelligence equipment of the Americans could not tell that the telephone call was a fake. What was the goal of the other person on the line, whoever he was? Why did Washington reveal this news which was taken as a joke? Why did Tehran not swiftly react? There are many other "whys", but because of a lack of information from responsible people, it is not easy to answer them right now. This is why any type of guess will have to wait until a later date.

Several days before this piece of news was broadcast, the Western mass media was speaking of secret meetings for the release of the hostages, progress in these negotiations, and the upcoming release of the hostages. This, and the fact that the broadcast of this "telephone joke" will undoubtedly damage the White House, means that the issue is not over yet. One must wait for further developments in the hostage crisis.

Among the various analyses as to why Washington broadcast the news of the telephone call, we shall examine three possible motives. First is that Washington has fallen victim to yet another game. Regardless of who the caller was, this shows the undying desire on the part of the Americans to establish contact with the Islamic Republic—even at the expense of embarrassing incidents. The second assumption could be that Washington has discovered that issues such as this, where one side involves Iran or supporters of Iran, can only be solved in an atmosphere of crisis. So, to get results from a chain of events, which were to have included secret contacts between Iran and the United States, and Tehran's willingness to end the hostage issue because of political and economic reasons—including getting needed help from the West—it was necessary to create a crisis so that the hostage situation would be solved.

Therefore, one can assume that creating tension on an international or regional level is considered by the White House as a way of solving the problem of the Western hostages, especially the American hostages in Lebanon.

The third assumption could be that the White House is trying to do something about this crisis, which exists throughout the United States, because Bush's political rivals and public opinion are accusing him of being indifferent toward the fate of the hostages. It could also be that the White House is trying to transfer the crisis it is facing in the Middle East and in Lebanon to the Islamic Republic, to make its problems Tehran's problems. Broadcasting the news of the fake telephone call could be taken by many to mean a desire on the part of Iran to negotiate with the United States. That way, the United States could keep its own desire for establishing contacts with the Islamic Republic's secret and could point to Tehran as starting the episode. If this assumption takes hold, two things will happen.

First, it will cause internal differences in Iran and second, it will remove the indecency of establishing the first contact, relations with the United States—relations which are against the interests of Iran and the Islamic revolution.

The conclusion one draws from the entire episode is that the Islamic Republic should not allow itself to fall into a trap with the United States over the issue of the hostages. It is essential that there be a policy which takes into consideration the interests of the revolution, keeping in mind the present politics of the region, in order to confront the issue. This line of thought must convince other opinions on the hostages, thereby making the Islamic Republic of Iran's position with regard to the issue of the Western hostages in Beirut quite clear.

The truth of the matter is that, keeping in mind the present conditions in the region, the continued crisis over the hostages—even if not harmful—will not benefit the supporters of the Islamic revolution. It can be seen that Washington is using the issue to cause dissent among Iranian officials. Also, by mentioning Iran's involvement in hostage-taking, it tries to ruin the Islamic Republic's international reputation.

Allegations over contacts between the United States and a certain faction within the Iranian leadership have brought the Islamic revolution's values into question. The 10-year experience of the Islamic revolution and the experience of other anti-Western nations show that "completely secret contacts" with the West have always been harmful to revolutions in the Third World.

This is why it is necessary to clarify the Islamic Republic's policies regarding the hostage issue for all those involved. With respect to the views of the Islamic revolution's friends in Lebanon, Iran's policies must be made clear to them.

It is natural that pursuing this policy does not mean that all the steps taken would have to be out in the open—mostly because of internal debate in the United States. However the closed stages would be put into action within a framework that would not include important and vital decisions; also the entire Iranian leadership would be informed of developments.

It is only in this way that the differences between the United States and Iran will find a logical framework. The lack of clear, logical, and realistic views on the relations between Iran and the United States will not be followed by a sudden and irresponsible about-face which has been experienced in many Third World revolutions.

At the same time, one must forget that this latest event in the hostage crisis—the fake telephone call—indicates the desperate situation of the U.S. leaders and their need to have relations with Iran. It also shows Iran's power. Future action should be in such a way so as to increase this power.

Soviet Delegation To Sign Gas Export Agreement

NC0604055390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] A delegation from the Soviet Ministry of Gas Industries arrived in Tehran last night to sign the final agreement on the export of Iranian gas to the Soviet Union. In accordance with the agreement that has been drawn up, Iran will export an average of 3 billion cubic meters of gas to the Soviet Union annually.

Last night, after the arrival of the delegation, the deputy petroleum minister and the managing director of the National Iranian Gas Company said: With the efforts of the operations group of the Gas Company, the first nationwide pipeline for gas exports has been prepared. There will be a ceremony in the next few days to mark the commencement of gas exports to the Soviet Union.

The managing director of Soyuzgaseksport [Gas Export Foreign Trade Association] stated at the airport: This joint cooperation, based on mutual interests, will be effective in expanding both countries' economic relations.

Talks Held With France on International Issues

LD0504201690 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA—Important international issues including implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 and the U.N. chief's new plan for its execution, the Afghanistan issue and Iran's relations with European Common Market were discussed between Iran and France here today.

Foreign Ministry Director General Francois Scheer represented France and Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi represented Iran in the meeting, the third since Scheer's arrival in Iran on Tuesday.

"There are some considerations concerning the U.N. chief's plan which should certainly be taken into account, including a guarantee and a clear timetable for the implementation of the plan," Va'ezi said.

He said since the acceptance of the resolution by Iran, Iraq has never cooperated for its implementation, and responded negatively to all plans and proposals put forth by the U.N. secretary general.

Va'ezi also reiterated the need for supporting the U.N. chief's plan by the Security Council.

France wants quick implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598, Scheer said, expressing the hope that the secretary general would be able to proceed with his task in the light of its importance, which has also been realized by the Security Council.

"The best way for showing good intention towards peace by the both sides is cooepration with the secretary general," he added.

Scheer heading a delegation arrived here Tuesday to follow up the talks on Tehran-Paris financial disputes.

Paper on 'Foreign-Inspired Sabotage' at Al-Rabitah

NC0504151090 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 18 Mar 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Al-Rabitah—The Thin Edge of the Wedge"]

[Text] In December of 1981 KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL [KI] accurately foretold of U.S. plans to assassinate Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. That attempt at murder was more than five years in the making and, as usual, disinformation played a large role. The outstanding lie of the initial episode was created by Jack Anderson; namely that a three-man Libyan sponsored hit squad was stalking President Ronald Reagan.

That falsehood and variations thereof dominated the America media in the last three months of 1981; a sub-conscious conditioning process designed to ready the American public for a catastrophic end to the Libyan leader. He was an Arab, a Muslim and a "terrorist" which are all heavily loaded, negative words in American media parlance. Thus when U.S. planes attacked his residence, greater Tripoli and Benghazi, killing 40 civilians in the process, the American public literally cheered.

On September 20, 1989 K.I. pinpointed a coming U.S. invasion for Panama aimed at its leader Gen. Manuel Noriega. On March 10 of this year, this same column mentioned the re-focusing of attention on al-Rabitah as a pretext for renewed U.S. adventurism. We recount these events not to lay claim to any prescience. Our point here is a simple one: America is utterly predictable in its devilish ways.

On March 7, discussing the al-Rabitah pharmaceuticals complex, dubbed chemical weapons factory by both the Reagan and Bush administrations, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said, "The international community should step up its efforts to deny Libya the ability to continue operating the plant... This is a subject we have under continual discussion with our allies... We intend to press ahead with those discussions in the coming days."

Following the fire at the complex, U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney speaking to a group of weekly newspaper editors and smiling like the cat who swallowed the canary said on March 16, "it's a darn shame what happened at al-Rabitah this week."

Although all the details are not in yet, given Mr Fitzwater's refusal to rule out military action against the Libyan facility only ten days ago and the undisguised glee in Washington over Wednesday's fire that reportedly has caused heavy damage, to say the Great Satan has been at work again is not to stretch the imagination.

What is disturbing is that Col. al-Qadhdhafi has specified a possible West German hand in what looks to be an act of state sponsored economic terrorism. The Germans did build the facility and thus know all its ends and outs. Significantly, in recent weeks German leaks about al-Rabitah actively producing chemical weapons dovetailed a little too nicely with the new White House anti-al-Rabitah campaign and then the fire. Previously the Germans adamantly contended the plant was not a weapons factory.

Could it be that the West Germans have knuckled under to American pressure for concessions on their own march towards a unified country? If that turns out to be true, then Bonn will have sold itself cheap. The Germans have always been respected throughout the Arab world, across Iran and into Afghanistan. With the Soviet Union funnelling Jews into Palestine and the very idea that the U.S. and West Germany may have collaborated at al-Rabitah, the region is faced with the possibility that Washington's latest litmus test for political support is how far her allies and would-be friends are willing to engage in endangering the interests of the Muslim world.

If Wednesday's conflagration is proven to be foreign-inspired sabotage, it should be seen in the context of the American conquest of Panama, the victory of American terrorism in Nicaragua in the guise of democratic elections, contingency plans for a hostage rescue operation in Lebanon and the undisguised bullishness the U.S. is displaying in the wake of communism's collapse in Eastern Europe and the USSR. This could well be the thin edge of the wedge in yet another attempt to overthrow the Libyan Revolution.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi has been a thorn in American flesh for twenty years now. Within two years after the September 1969 victory of the Fatah Revolution, the colonel had closed down the U.S. military bases in Libya. Wheelus Air Base had done yeoman's service to American assistance for Israel in the 1967 Six Day War. In the same time frame he also engineered the first oil price "shock" that put teeth into OPEC.

America's recoverable oil reserves are fast dwindling and her reliance on Middle Eastern energy sources is due for

a sharp increase. In contrast to that energy poverty, Libya in recent weeks has doubled its already hefty official estimates of recoverable oil and natural gas reserves. Libya is a vertiable gold mine. Thus attempts against that nation's sovereignty and its leader's life will in all likelihood continue. What else is to be expected of any energy starved Great Satan?

Western 'Fuss' Over Iraq Called 'Contradictory'

LD0504123890 Tehran IRNA in English 0933 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA—A morning daily Thursday commented on [the] West's recent contradictory propaganda fuss on smuggling of U.S.-made triggers for nuclear bombs which could enable the Baghdad regime to make such weapons. In a front page weekly commentary, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI noted that contradiction in the remarks of various Western statesmen further revealed Iraq's subservience to the West.

The West is definitely present deep in the structure of Iraqi administration and has so far played a determining role in survival of the Baghdad regime, the article said. Therefore, it stressed, U.S. allegations that the Baghdad regime had worked secretly to obtain nuclear weapons and that the U.S. and Britain for over two years were after spotting the agents involved [as received], are totally baseless.

"The role diabolic powers played in equipping Iraq's war machine, notably supplying chemical weapons to Iraq, is something that even the West could not deny," commented the daily. However, the article noted, the recent propaganda fuss could either be a 'scandalous disclosure' against Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn in order to exert 'political-propaganda' pressure on the Baghdad regime, or, a move aimed at affecting the forthcoming round of Iran-Iraq peace talks.

The article concluded by saying that no doubt there are other elements involved which time will gradually reveal them.

Editorial Assails Jewish Emigration to 'Palestine'

LD0504103590 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA—The Persian daily "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' said in a commentary Thursday that the sending of Soviet Jews to the occupied Palestine by the Soviet Government is a 'dirty and racist plot' against the Palestinian Muslims. It said one idea behind the project is to increase Jewish population in the occupied Palestine against Palestinians.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said in part: "The Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. Senate has agreed to appropriate dlrs. 400 million in aid to the settling of Soviet Jews in the occupied Palestine, and the Foreign Relations Committee of the Congress, too, has endorsed the appropriation.

"Previously the Bush Administration had said that in the event the Zionist government should not offer adequate guarantees against the settlement of Soviet Jews on the Western Bank of the Jordan River it would not agree with the appropriation bill. In the face of the promised reservation, now the appropriation of the huge budget is evidence of the demagogic nature of the U.S. assurance in that regard.

"The presence of wealthy Jews in the United States and their influence in the political leadership of the United States has been the most important backing for the Jews who have emigrated to the occupied Palestine. The budget appropriation is not per se surprising because it is consistent with Washington's established policies, but the inconsistency between the declared positions of the United States and the Soviet Union and their actions betrays an international treason against the Arabs and Palestinians in the occupied lands."

TEHRAN TIMES Rejects Ties With Egypt

NC0504144690 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 19 Mar 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Release of Egyptian POW's"]

[Text] Iran released 20 Egyptian POWs, captured during the Iraqi imposed war, unilaterally last week. In the course of its war against the Islamic Iran Iraq benefitted from mercenaries brought in from countries such as Egypt, Sudan, Jordan, and Lebanon. The Egyptians, however, were set free following a request by the high-ranking Lebanese religious leader Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban.

Regional circles have interpreted the Iranian move as feelers sent by Tehran to effect a possible review of its ties with Cairo. Iran severed relations with Egypt following the latter's signature of the Camp David Accords with the Zionist regime in 1979.

Aside from Egypt at present Iran does not have diplomatic relations with a number of Arab countries including Saudi Arabia, Mauritania, Tunisia, Jordan, and Morocco.

Among these countries Egypt and Saudi Arabia enjoy a certain geopolitical importance in the region. But this significance alone is not of course enough to outweigh other considerations and lift snags in the way for normal relations between them and Iran.

Informed sources believe that some regional diplomatic personalities as well as some friendly governments had asked the Islamic Republic to resume ties with Egypt in the aftermath of Iran's acceptance of the U.N. brokered ceasefire with Iraq in August 1988.

Syria, enjoying very cordial ties with Iran, is said to be among those who have recently tried to mediate to thaw the ice in Tehran-Cairo relations.

The Islamic Republic's response to the mediating countries has been one of ringing clarity and based on its foreign policy principles.

No thaw with Egypt, the Iranian response holds, as long as that country continues to cling to the treacherous Camp David Accords with the devil itself, the Zionist regime.

In Iran's view Cairo's adherence to the accords can be interpreted in one way only: It is no more than an effort to deviate the rightful struggle of the Palestinian Moslems against the Zionist usurpers from its very truthful course to submission before Israel. This Iran will not tolerate no matter what cost it will have to pay.

How on earth is it ever possible that Iran normalizes ties with a regime that seeks to compromise with the avowed enemy of Moslems who listens to and understands nothing but the language of force and coercion? The Egyptian leaders must be really ashamed of themselves. They have trampled upon honor and truth by entering into agreement with a regime that breaks the unarmed arms of Palestinian protesters with rocks. Has the Zionist regime desisted from any conceivable act of brutality against our Moslem brothers in Palestine? How can one call oneself a Moslem and still sit at talks with Israel or with those who have made deals with such a despicable regime?

But some people might think that given the very strong Islamic opposition to the Egyptian regime, the very existence of the Islamic Republic's embassy in Cairo will fortify the position of the Moslem activists in the country. These people share the idea that not before long Egypt will be gutted by fires of a general unrest whose control will be beyond the power of the clique at the helm in Cairo.

This might be so. But still it does not affect the rightful line of thinking that no connection with Egypt is possible as long as the Cairo regime is shamefully part of the treacherous Camp David Accords.

Larijani Examines Western 'Tirade' Against Iraq

LD0504213990 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 5 IRNA—Is the current row, as it is made out to appear, between Ba'thist Iraq and the U.S.-UK-Zionist triumvirate, a sham quarrel or a serious one, questioned an Iranian Foreign Ministry adviser.

In his weekly column in the Persian daily ETTELA'AT today, Mohammad Javad Larijani thinks that the intensity of the Western media's propaganda tirade against the Iraqi regime shows that the dispute is serious, because if it was a mere show, it should have been reserved for "certain audiences", who most of the time are Iran or the Arab world.

But, according to Larijani, if Iran was concerned the p[illegible]paganda would have contented with myth of the Iraqi regime's power, and talking about its crimes was out of place. And if the subject were the Arab states, it would bear contradictory result, since Arab countries themselves have willingly worn the yoke of dependence and like to "dance to the tune" of foreigners. [passage as received]

"Where is the main battlefield?" Larijani asked, adding that threat or pressure against Iran is not undesirable for the foreign governments interfering in the region, mainly the U.S., Britain and the Soviet Union. And it should be noted that this is the foreign policy of the hated and denigrated Iraqi regime. The problem starts from this point onward.

On the other hand, he said, Iraq is never satisfied with mere superiority over Iran, and has tried to use this as a lever to be the regional gendarme, and not only that, to become master of the Arab world.

"Therefore, we can conclude that the root of the current row lies in contradiction between Saddam's greeds in the region and the Arab world, and what has been schemed by the U.S. and Britain for this region," thought the former Foreign Ministry deputy.

And of course, he continued, both elements, the old and the new, stemming from the current situation of the world, are involved in this regard. "I have not found a reason to reject this theory."

In the meantime, U.S. policies concerning the Persian Gulf have turned to one of the major axes of its foreign relations, and this is one of the direct consequences of developments in the socialist bloc. The Persian Gulf region is now one of the four zones in which the U.S. should increase its influence in order to make up for the decrease in its interests in Europe, while the region due to its wealthy energy resources, is playing a key role in the U.S. strategy of "reining Europe," he said.

For example, noted Larijani, remarks of the former U.S. Energy Secretary James Schlesinger about the dangers of OPEC's price increase and production cut for the U.S. vital interests in a not faraway future, elaborates the U.S. policy.

Oil price and production in the Persian Gulf region should be controlled more accurately by the U.S. The U.S. in the future will call for both production cut and price increase, but according to calculations which suits the U.S. policy towards reining Europe.

On occupied Palestine, he said, Israel is serious on ending the issue once and for all, and that is to drive all Palestinians towards Jordan, and set up a government there, which to some extent satisfies the thirst of the opportunist leaders of al-Fatah.

After all Palestinians have established a government somewhere, and Israel too has gained the vast area it needs, at least for the time being. "Consequently, Saddam's friend, the King of Jordan, is also standing on banana skin," thought Larijani.

These considerations have changed all the previous plans, against Saddam and the axis which he intended to set up. Domination of the region and the Arab world has changed both in form and meaning, and it is certainly moving against the Islamic ummah.

"Perhaps we could say that the U.S. is looking for a master in the Arab world, but this time from an Umm Kulthoum type," he concluded wryly.

Papers Urge Implementation of Resolution 598

LD0504195190 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA—Two Iranian dailies Thursday editorialized on the U.N. chief's new proposal for implementaion of the Resoluton 598, Iran's response and forthcoming peace talks to be held in New York.

The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' said that the regional crisis would not be solved if superpowers continued their support for Baghdad.

The world has realized "Saddam's war-mongering and sick nature and behavior," the editorial said.

It added that Iraq would have been defeated at the very beginning of its aggression against Iran if it had not received the huge Western military and material aid.

"They should not only end their aid to the brutal regime of Saddam but should instead apply increasing political and economic pressures through the international community against Iraq to force it to accept and respect the views of the world community," it said.

Saddam should be compelled to give up his preconditions, "excuses and other tactics contrary to the resolution", stressed the English daily.

Meanwhile, the Persian daily 'ABRAR' expressed hope that Perez de Cuellar's new proposal would open the way for resumption of the peace talks and implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598.

The daily suggested that Saddam's recent confession of possessing binary chemical weapons has been interpreted as a sort of threat against the region.

According to ABRAR the move has a dual purpose, on the one hand it aims to portray Saddam as one aspiring to be the leader of the Arab world and on the other hand to effect [as received] the forthcoming New York Iran-Iraq peace talks.

The paper stressed that there is no doubt that the West is behind the latest threat of Saddam because what is evident is direct technical and technological cooperation of the West with Iraq in producing chemical weapons.

The Persian daily emphasized that implementation of the Resolution 598 and establishment of a lasting peace between Iran and Iraq is the key to Middle East problems adding that developments in this region could effect the entire world.

The editorial warned that Persian Gulf and Middle East problems would remain unsolved if international pressures fail to make the Baghdad regime accept international laws and regulations.

Velayati Meets UN Afghan Affairs Representative

LD0504203690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Mr. Swan, the UN special representative for Afghan affairs, met Foreign Minister Velayati this afternoon.

During the meeting he described as admirable the welcome given by Iran to Afghan refugees, without foreign aid, during the past 11 years. While praising Iran for her constructive way of dealing with the Afghan issue, he said: The role played by the Islamic Republic of Iran in solving the Afghan issue is extremely important.

During the meeting Mr. Velayati said: We have constantly supported the establishment of a Muslim, nonaligned and independent government in Afghanistan. We endorse any solution which safeguards the interests of all the Muslim people of Afghanistan and the rights of all groups.

Stressing Iran's opposition to any foreign interference in Afghanistan, he said: Only the Muslim people of Afghanistan should determine their own fate.

According to this report, the special representative of the UN secretary general also discussed the latest developments in the Afghan situation during separate meetings with the international and Asia and Oceania undersecretaries of our country's Foreign Ministry today.

Need for Azerbaijan-Armenian Settlement Viewed

NC0504150290 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 28 Mar 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Azeris, Armenians Should Embark on Political Solution"]

[Text] With the situation tense and unclear in Lithuania, the Soviet Tass news agency has reported that serious tensions between Soviet Armenia and Azerbaijan republics are on the rise. A time-bomb exploded Saturday at a gasoline station near a high-way in the "Shusha-Karabakh" region. Moreover, on the same day another bomb went off in Armenia on a train bound for Baku.

Unfortunately fighting between Armenians and Azeris has not been limited to the two above-mentioned events. In the past few days many other incidents of violence and clash between the Azeris and Armenians have been reported.

It seems that, given these untoward developments the two republics are not at all moving towards a solution of their conflicts and problems.

The two ethnic groups don't even appear ready to utilize the favorable political situation now prevailing in the USSR after 70 years of political repression.

It is regrettable that they are failing to benefit from the ongoing sweeping changes in the union in securing their own national interests.

Events of past centuries and bitter memories of past centuries and other memories of past ethnic confrontation and mixing them with the complicated demands of today is tantamount to causing deviation in their "movement." [sentence as published]

Both Azeris and Armenians should by now have realized that the method of peaceful struggle as adopted by the Baltic states of Lithuania and Estonia has so far been more successful than other approaches and has created greater sympathy for them in the world.

The cruelties and atrocities committed during the past 70 years against Moslems in Central Asia and Caucasus by Stalin and his successors were criminal when compared to the events in the two Baltic states. Due to the repressive Stalinistic attitude towards Muslim-populated republics living standards of the masses of people in the two republics are very different from those in other republics of the Soviet Union.

Both Azeris and Armenians should realize that the leaders of the conservative and totalitarian factions in Moscow will take the most advantage of this meaningless enmity between the two republics. Besides, internecine wars between ethnic races and nationalities is unacceptable to any central government. Continuation of violence and bloody clashes only justifies Moscow's use of force to quell the disturbances.

It must, therefore, be stressed that the leaders of both the republics, Azerbaijan and Armenia, should put an end to these acts of violence and bloodshed as soon as possible and turn to political settlement.

Paper Urges Muslim Stand on Kashmir 'Massacre'

LD0504124990 Tehran IRNA in English 0816 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA—A Persian daily Thursday urged the world of Islam to take a stand on massacre of Muslims by Indian forces and make the Delhi government realize that Muslims' massacre would not go unheeded. The morning daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI commenting on recent developments in Kashmir and the Indian Government's resort to irrational use of force said that by killing people and leaders of the Kashmir uprising, the Indian Government intends to find the solution in more violance. It stressed that this would only destroy the bridges behind Delhi officials.

Referring to Delhi government's earlier refusal of mediation efforts or any role by the United Nations or any other country in Kashmir developments, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said the government wants to pave the way through more massacre. However, according to political analysts, the more the government employed this tactic, the less successful it would be.

President on Need To Develop 'Deprived Areas'

NC0504145690 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Mar 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Improvement of Living Conditions of Deprived Is a Must"]

[Text] President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while visiting Sistan va Baluchestan Province early this week, said his cabinet places top priority on the improvement of living standards and industry in the deprived areas of the country. He assured his audience, from among the most economically strapped classes of the Iranian society, that with the commencement of the nation's First Five-Year Plan reconstruction activities across the country, especially in the deprived provinces will very seriously start and be followed up.

The president's tour of the deprived regions at the threshold of the New Year is an augury of diligent efforts on the part of the government to promote living conditions for the deprived. Such visits by the top officials, and especially the chief executive, will certainly contribute to a better grasp of the people's problems by responsible officials. These visits will also suggest a glimmer of hope to people encouraging them to further cooperate with the government in removing the snags on the way to their region's economic prosperity.

A number of provinces including the Sistan va Baluchestan Province, given the urban-oriented and well-to-do-directed policies followed by the former regime have indeed remained deprived. Their resources have not been fully tapped nor have their potentials been employed in the right way to permit a trickling downward of welfare.

Regrettably in the post-revolution era too the government has not been able to do much to improve economic conditions in these areas mainly due to a stupendously expensive eight-year imposed war.

Some of these areas have a very promising future once their resources and potentials are effectively harnessed.

In fact the revolution owes much to the deprived masses and the government should spare no effort to ensure a decent living for them. It was these very same deprived classes of the nation which only through great endeavor and what can be best termed "self-sacrifice" helped the revolution fight its numerous domestic and foreign foes and made it viable at the cost of great suffering to themselves.

It is then very unbecoming of this Islamic Revolution which was and is indeed a revolution of the oppressed and deprived that this part of our nation continues to live in abject poverty. This is intolerable, especially now that the war is over. But with the firm commitment to the improvement of the conditions of deprived masses on the part of the Islamic Republic's government this year will hopefully see great developments along this line.

It is hoped that Iran will no longer have any region categorized as deprived by the end of the government's First Five-Year Plan.

*Further Reportage on 11, 12 Mar Majles Session

90AS0001B Tehran RESALAT in Persian
14 Mar 90 pp 4, 5, 8, 11

[Text] Legal and Majles Department—Monday morning the Majles met in public session.

During this session, after readings of verses from the glorious words of God, the sole item on the agenda was the full budget bill for 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991]. After statements made in opposition and in support and explanations from the Plan and Budget Commission expert and the government's representatives, it was passed with a strong majority.

Then the Majles undertook a consideration of the notes for the budget bill for 1369, a number of which were passed.

We direct the reader's attention to the continuation of general discussions of the budget held on Sunday and Monday.

Mohammad Reza Bahonar (Supporting)

The fifth supporter of the budget bill was Mr. Bahonar, the Tehran deputy, who said initially: Support for this bill is at once easy and difficult. It is easy in the sense that the plan was approved a few months ago in this very Majles, and it is easy to study part of it in more detail. It is difficult in that it is difficult to compare the budget submitted with the goals of the plan and to study the degree to which the budget bill for 1369 takes into account the goals of the Five-Year Plan, because the government has not had the benefit of certain executive tasks, or the time and the ability to make the regulations to move in the direction of the goals of the plan, and the time allocated to prepare some of those executive plans has not even expired.

He added: In the matter of reconstruction, the first factor that comes to mind is manpower, and in this era the highest priority must be allocated to manpower training. On this basis, the chief concern for the budget bill for 1369 has been the training of society's manpower in the areas of education and training, higher education, and technical and professional training.

We have repeated many times the slogan that teaching is the calling of prophets, and this is precisely how it is, for the most valuable people in society are the teachers. Unfortunately, however, we have done nothing to see to the spiritual and material needs of this toiling and sacrificing group. In our society, because of severe economic constraints, the teacher has not achieved an adequate standard of living, and in order to obtain a loaf of bread for his family, he has turned to non-specialist and even fraudulent employment. For this reason, instead of progressing, the quality of education and training in our society has declined. Not only has the teacher suffered economically, the position and status of the teacher in our society have not been maintained as they should be.

He then addressed the president's laboring government. He said: (1) To make fundamental changes in the system for education and training, serious and sustained work without haste must be done. (2) Serious investments must be made to connect the theoretical lessons in the universities with the nation's economic sectors. (3) To elevate the physical and material status of teachers, and to revive the true value of the teacher, who is society's greatest treasure, precise timetables must be set and carried out. For this purpose, whatever financial ability exists must be applied, and the maximum use must be made of the potential of the people, including capital, manpower, organization, etc. In giving priority to the matter of manpower training, the exact indicator is the aim of the Five-Year Plan. (4) The research sector, which is the weakest one in society, has not found its true importance, and even more than the amount of investment required of the government must be made in this sector. He discussed the matter of protecting the purchasing power of society's middle and lower classes during the Five-Year Plan. He said: For various reasons, about 4 million families are on the government payroll, and if we say that the average family is five persons, there are about 20 million people whose expenses must be met by the government, and this heavy, high-quality group is the government's legacy from the past, and perhaps many of the problems—including the ineffectiveness of government organizations, the low incomes of salaried workers, and some financial corruption—are the product of this legacy.

Continuing, he added: In a society whose administrative regulations must fit into the framework of Islamic values and retaining the position of the human being, it is not acceptable to deal harshly with this great and deprived class of people, and abandoning them is a greater offense against preserving the principle of the government and moving it towards sacred objectives. The question is, what thought has the government given to solving this problem, and why has it failed so far to do anything positive? This is most unjust because reducing this great mass of manpower will first of all create employment opportunities in various areas, including production, and second the appropriate talented manpower must receive the necessary new training so it will have greater

effectiveness in smaller numbers. It will be intolerable to wait and sit idly for a long time. If the lack of employment or the lack of suitable worker competence among government workers becomes a justification for inactivity, this disease could spread and bring the nation's executive system to a standstill. In this regard, there are crucial bills to create systems, reform the system of payments, and rely on the creation of new employment opportunities by creating factories, industries, mines, huge farms, and other things, and the government has taken tangible steps in this matter which bear no comparison to the long years that went before. Revising worker wages, although inevitable in order to protect their purchasing power, is a vicious circle that will demand increased current, development and investment costs, increased inflation, and more wage increases. Preserving the purchasing power of these people, without reducing the fixed costs for current expenses, development and investment, is not possible without reducing the government's unnecessary work and reforming its systems and methods, and consequently slightly reducing the number of wage earners, and this is not practical without creating the needed employment in society and in the non-government sectors. Continuing, he said: Taxes are one of the government's soundest and most basic sources of revenue. A one-product economy is the greatest danger to society, and unfortunately, although we have suffered much in the past because of this, and a great many problems have confronted the Islamic Republic of Iran because of this, the nation's officials seem mesmerized by it. Not only are they unable to break this closed and destructive cycle, they even oppose the various ways to export non-petroleum goods, to the point that a minister said before this very Majles in 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986]: "Now that we have an annual petroleum income of $18 billion, we cannot export more than $100 million in non-petroleum goods. Why do you aggravate us? Let us export the oil and make the basic investments." In 1364 the good news was that we should restrict exports of non-petroleum goods and that oil dollars would be constructive, and we saw that they created problems. The tax revenues that existed and continue to exist generally arose out of oil revenues, and when oil revenues declined, so did taxes and customs fees. Seemingly the only solid source of tax revenues was taxes on the wages of oppressed workers and employees. Serious reliance has been placed in the Five-Year Plan and in the budget for 1369 on tax revenues, and in Note 35 there has been a striking increase in resources for the tax-collecting department. Actually, taxes in the economic system should have two major roles, as a lever for investment in various sectors and as a way to procure some revenue for the government. Unfortunately, because taxes have actually been considered from the point of view of revenue creation, they have not been justly organized, and justice still does not prevail in the tax system, to the extent that the real and fraudulent incomes in the services sector is hidden, and unfortunately the level of taxes collected from this sector, due to the lack of a system of intelligence and the lack of information about the real source of large incomes, is below expectations. If this sector is to be entered, one must first go after capital and large incomes in production sectors, such as factories, agricultural lands, etc. In reality, sound taxation should be based on added value and production in society, but now when huge amounts of money are in the non-production sectors, although it is an erosion of capital, since this national capacity has unnaturally accumulated with individuals and capitalists who are not willing to move in the production sector, collecting taxes is the best way to control profiteering in this sector, and reducing its appeal is the proper use of taxes to achieve social justice on the one hand and to procure a large part of the government's budget on the other. Until profits in this sector are brought into equilibrium with the other capital sectors, the collection of taxes of this type must increase, so that, God willing, capital will be driven into production, and at that time just and religiously lawful levels of taxes will be collected, and the government's revenue will be directly connected to national production. Perhaps the first factor driving capital into the hands of merchants and businessmen was the restrictive policies of the past. Pressure on producers and the ease of getting at their incomes and collecting unjust taxes was due to their lack of visibility and the impossibility of hiding them. On this basis, we say that unfortunately the most reliable source of taxes is first of all the government wage earners, followed by the producers in the industrial and agricultural sectors, and the collection of taxes from unused capital that has been in motion daily and which has produced very great profits for its owners due to its high rate of circulation, is a first-rate tax source. In order to move towards social justice, the most necessary element is refining the tax system because this system needs information. Closing off and limiting the religiously lawful avenues to capital investment and making slogans to attack them will have no result other than that, like in the past, it will make the owners of capital fatter and more prosperous every day, especially those who seek their own interests in damaging the government, while those who believe in the government will be crushed beneath the wheel of threatening slogans, and the believers will have doubts about putting their capital into production. Unfortunately, some people promote the revision of these policies in the name of the loss of values. We say that the restrictive polices of the past, despite all the slogans that were given, caused the creation of deep rifts in society. Huge revenues earned overnight that appeared in the country, some of which continue, do not exist anywhere in the world, even in the heart of the capitalist nations, while profits in the factories and companies, whether government, cooperative, or private, are based on the amount of foreign exchange the government earns and its sale on the free market. It makes no difference if the company is government or private, the Saipa Company, a cooperative company monopolizing the export of goods, or some bazaar capitalist who was able to establish credit in the government system, none of them make any difference. Evidently, a cooperative foundation or company with a monopoly on the export of one item and the export

foreign exchange for it, along with an apparently interest-free loan, and a cultural foundation that is the successor to a capitalist of the time of the idolaters, or is merchant, business or capitalist, that obtains an agreement-in-principle through one of the circles to open credit for authorized export, all these people have created huge overnight fortunes, and in their own way they could create a Watergate in the economic system. The likes of them and their profits are not to be found in the capitalist nations. The multi-national companies raise their profits several percentage points higher than bank interest levels while they plunder the world of the oppressed and the deprived people of the world, and while even under the restrictive policies of the past we saw profits of 100 percent, 200 percent, and even 300 percent per year. When a factory can take 70 rials in dollars, convert it to merchandise and sell it for 100 tomans in foreign exchange, and thereby not only stay out of the red for the year, but show profits of several hundred percent for its company, the matter of production, the level of utilization, quality control, innovation and invention, and investment in the research sector will decline, and we will see that unfortunately the quality of production goods will drop day after day. Our quarrel is with the government of capital, and a great many of the people who sincerely, as the saying goes, have leftist leanings, are afraid of that very thing. That is, the owners of capital and the centralization of wealth among individuals cause the government and policy-makers to follow their lead and the government and the Majles to be in their service. This is a very serious matter, fully deserving of attention, and in this regard there is no difference of opinion among those who are truly concerned and believe in the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We say that if this uncontrolled, fateful, and policy-setting wealth remains in the hands of individuals, it is just as dangerous as it would be if held by an official or custodian of an overtly interest-free loan foundation or if held by a large cooperative monopoly, a great portion of whose profits are in the hands of its custodians, acting director, or board of directors. It is just as dangerous when the huge and limitless profits of an individual capitalist are increased enormously overnight when he opens credit at the Central Bank by conspiring with an official. When a foundation with no specific charter is able by maneuvering and establishing relations to acquire 100 percent of the shares of a confiscated factory and to acquire all of its 70-rial foreign exchange, and to make that site its election headquarters during the elections, this is dangerous as well. If these revenues produced by government and free foreign exchange had gone into the national treasury, perhaps our government would not now owe the Central Bank almost 20,000 million tomans. According to information received, when the Ministry of Heavy Industries presented its semi-completed projects to the relevant commission for study in the budget for 1369, we saw that more than 60 percent of the agreements in principle issued in previous years were for the private sector, and yet in the past the officials of this ministry mostly used slogans about putting work in the hands of the government and government monopolies, and against the private sector. The issuance of agreements in principle means pouring 70 rial dollars into the accounts of owners of agreements in principle, the issuance of documents for government lands for the projects involved, the issuance of authorization for needed tools without observing many regulations, and depositing bank credits for the owners of agreements in principle. Our quarrel is that if the private sector is bad, why are you acting in secret? If profits must be put into the government's treasury, what better source for it than the dollars spent over the last 10 years for the agreements in principle? This difference could have been converted to rials and could have been used to repay some of the government's debts during the war. Why weren't these funds used to repay the government's debt to the Central Bank? How much will be paid to the government by the foundations, whose initial capital was recorded as a volume of the glorious words of God and 1 million rials and who now have billions of tomans in capital stored? You may say that this hoard will be spent for the deprived, and assuming we believe this, do you consider yourself more worthy and entitled than the government? Haven't you personally prospered living alongside this enormous capital? My insistence and that of the government in the first Five-Year Plan and the budget of 1369 is that the aforementioned income resulting from the difference between the price of government foreign exchange and free market foreign exchange be put into the government's pocket, and, as in the current year, be used to reduce 80 billion tomans of the national debt, and it would at least be able to bring the budget deficit to zero by 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994]. He added: I remember when one of these very advocates of the deprived sold 15,000 motor bikes at 10,000 tomans each to a political organization. This organization, with a 2,000-toman profit per motor bike, killed two birds with one stone. First it increased its supporters by selling 15,000 motor bikes at the free market price to oppressed students, and second it made a profit of 30 million tomans. If we assume that there were no personal or family expenses, the most optimistic use of the money was the preparation and printing of posters and placards and promotional costs to get individuals into the Majles, and it is surprising that a brother—God willing, he got into the Majles with his personal qualifications—who casts more than 90 percent of his votes on the groups that sponsored him, said a few days ago at this very podium: "Don't the people want representatives?" We say it would be very well for no one to represent them when 90 percent of his votes pertain to groups who promote their interests at heavy expense and using other methods in contradiction of the values of the revolution. Of course we do not wish, God forbid, to deny his personal qualifications, or those of persons like him, but we say that the government is capitalist in every respect, whether in the private sector, the foundations, the cooperative sector, the Americanized left, or the Russian right.

Summarizing his comments, he said:

(1) The chief source of revenue should be taxation. (2) To make taxes more just, the ratios of direct taxes to indirect taxes and employment taxes to total taxes each year should be raised. In the budget for 1369 these were raised 2.5 and 100 percent respectively, and this is a very positive point. (3) Until profitability in the various sectors of the economy comes into balance, the greatest tax pressure must be on business, brokers, and middlemen, and increased taxes in the production sectors must be avoided. (4) Finally, after profitability is brought into balance in the various sectors, in production taxes should be taken according to profitability and taxes must be the result of production. This is the ideal taxation situation, both with respect to procuring government revenues and achieving even distribution of investment in the various sectors. Note 35 and the policy of competitive foreign exchange sales for producers promise a beginning for this trend. We hope that in the first Five-Year Plan, the government of His Holiness Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Muslimin Hashemi-Rafsanjani will make serious reforms in the tax system to procure the major part of the nation's needed revenues through taxation, and we will thereby take basic steps towards social justice and economic expansion. This is where the cry is raised that social justice and economic expansion are in conflict, and we see that first of all it is possible to achieve social justice along with economic expansion, and secondly, social justice and justice are not found in poverty, and that just distribution is not poverty. Rather, social justice is found in the just distribution of wealth obtained through the sacred laws of Islam, and its result is increased national production. (5) A revision of the Direct Taxation Law, which the government is obliged to amend in the first Five-Year Plan, will be a great help in reaching the above goals. Elsewhere in his talk, Mr. Bahonar stressed the need for giving production a central role in the government's activities. He said: Let us not hear again the cry raised by some that the values of the past are being destroyed. Respect and giving importance to the vast sector of our sincere work force, meaning the Mojahedin on the path of God and all those who sacrificed their material interests and their most cherished investments to preserve the values of the revolution and Islam, is the most genuine way to preserve values and to safeguard those with values. Seeing to the situation of the generous and to increase participation by combatants in the universities. Work of this sort will preserve values, but some people are resisting this with the appealing call for the preservation of values in the face of the changes we must make. Continuing, he explained the stagnation in production as follows: To procure production centers, the government has issued agreements in principle, and most of the time the subsidies the government ought to give to the producer are paid at one time for the establishment of the production center, and then the founder tries to sell it and transfer it before it gets to the production stage. Mr. Bahonar added: To solve this problem, we believe that government subsidies must be paid to the producer, not the founder of a producing institution, and arrangements must be made so that these profits are moved from the establishment stage to the production stage.

The Tehran deputy said: It is completely unfair and impious for someone to accuse the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani of defending capitalism, when he has dedicated himself to launching production and increasing our gross national product. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani is the spokesman of the deprived, and many of you, through his affirmations and good will, have been able to make yourselves heard. A deputy trying to solve a problem accuses the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani of giving a free hand to the plunderers and hoarders. It is unlikely that one could indulge in such defamation to please God and accuse the most powerful arm of the revolution and of the leadership of these compromises. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who has the honor of our late imam's repeated and unreserved support, and whose tongue has cut and continues to cut the hearts of hoarders and corrupt, greedy people like a sword, is accused of supporting plunderers by a hasty man who has come on the scene lately and wants to solve his personal problems quickly. What is this individual who says these things looking for? What benefit has he brought to society and the deprived people? Are we to regard one of his close associates as a poor oppressed person, who took a letter of recommendation from him to one of the ministers to get permission to import 1,000 tons of polyethylene with export foreign exchange? In any case, despite the effects of propaganda at sensitive times, the people can tell the difference between a servant and a criminal, and in time they will recognize those who obtain agreements in principle and commercial licenses using two-line letters of recommendation from the deputies.

In conclusion, Mr. Bahonar said: God willing, the Majles deputies will approve the total budget with a decisive positive vote and will affirm the policies of the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the goals of the Five-Year Plan, and in studying the details, God willing, they will take care not to allow another group into the market every day and remove the total budget from the framework of the plan by raising expenses in the various sectors, although such a move is in conflict with Principle 75 of the Constitution. God forbid, if we were to look as individuals at the various sectors, it would be impossible to classify them and the budget would be converted to an anti-plan budget.

Nurollah 'Abedi (Opposing)

The sixth opponent of the National Budget Bill for 1369 was Mr. Nurollah 'Abedi, who began his talk by mentioning the fact that he is not opposed to all the policies implemented in the budget, but that he is opposed to some of the polices in this budget. He said: I am glad that those who violently opposed the policies his holiness the imam cited at the beginning of the triumph of the Islamic revolution, are now saying different things, and I am happy that after nine years they have come onto the proper and true path. In this Majles, we saw people

opposing policies and openly declaring that it is forbidden to collect taxes. The nameless soldiers of the imam defended the policies of His Holiness the Imam at this sacred place, and said we must liberate ourselves from the policies of oil and a one-product economy, and go after those who have huge incomes and are hiding behind the coat tails of rigid thinkers pretending to be pious who oppose the Imam.

He said: I am happy that for the first time in the Majles we see people who never once in the eight years of the imposed war expressed agreement with the government supported by his holiness the imam are now expressing that agreement.

I wish the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani success in carrying out the Five-Year Plan, and as a small brother I declare that lest anyone hurt the government in the name of supporting it, we consider support of the government from this point of view, that all the policies of the government must be criticized and studied, and we see this as a part of the evolution and growth of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He added: We believe that social justice must be established in society, we believe that production must flourish. In this very Majles I have declared that I kiss the hand of the capitalist and man of wealth who invests his money for production, but I declare right here that capitalist leeches will not in any way be happy until they take over the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and interfere in its policies, and until they have people in the Majles who support their policies. Let them invest in production, we value all policies that reduce inflation, but this does not mean that the government's plans should not be studied.

On the one hand you say that tax revenues have increased, but where have they increased? Increasing the cost of foreign exchange from 70 tomans to 84 tomans and five rials and selling against the toman is not revenue or technique.

He said: The minister of economic affairs and finance must take note that if the policies of the government require tomorrow that we sell foreign exchange for 120 tomans, we will not blame this on the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and the government, and this is not income.

He added: If these policies continue, whom will they hurt? When you say that part of our budget deficit will be made up by selling dollars, and that our budget deficit is falling, have you thought of that unfortunate employee, who will have to pay 100 tomans instead of seven tomans?

Addressing Mr. Bahonar, he said: You who speak of teachers and say that attention has not been paid to the teacher, is the teacher being considered in this account? Do these policies mean support of the oppressed class of society? We do not agree with this approach to the interests of a nation.

He said: In our budget, unfortunately the topic is raised every year that the prosperous sectors of society have continued to expand and we have tried to solve the problem of the prosperous regions because the prosperous areas attract larger populations. To solve this great problem, you must inject more resources into the deprived areas, and unfortunately the budget's policies are not directed at the deprived areas.

He said: Policies must be such that just distribution of the nation's revenues will be achievable in the one-year and Five-Year Plans. Both the government and the Majles must give attention to this matter.

According to the nation's official statistics, Khuzestan has the highest rate of unemployment. How are we going to protect the border areas, when the enemy's greatest attention has been directed at Khuzestan Province? When the topic of compensating for the lack of expansion in the border and deprived areas arises, it cannot be accepted as a policy. Is this directing policy at the nation's deprived areas?

Mr. Nurollah 'Abedi added: Today all of our people in the border areas must feel that the whole government with all its abilities is at their service, and for every kind of calamity that arises from the sacred government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the government will do everything it can to solve their problem. We see that unfortunately this policy is not being implemented.

He mentioned the need for gas pipelines to all the nation's residential areas. In this regard, we must expand the nation's gas delivery system, but on the one hand we see that the people are unable to obtain the tools, valves, and pipes for gas pipelines. Therefore, a policy must be implemented where the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Petroleum provide the people with valves and pipes.

Majid Ansari (Supporting)

The sixth supporter of the budget bill for 1369 was Mr. Majid Ansari, who discussed the nation's economic problems in writing the budget bill.

No plan and no budget, especially in view of the nation's numerous economic problems arising from imperialist pressures on the one hand and the destruction left by the oppressive monarchy on the other hand, can ever be complete.

He then explained that one of the strong points of the budget for 1369 is its reliance on integrated and goal-oriented plans. He said: All the statistics, figures, and policies for the 1369 budget are within the framework of the policies of the Five-Year Plan, which was enacted by this very respected Majles, validated by the great leader, and stressed by the respected president of the republic.

He also discussed other important points of the 1369 budget. He said: The sharp and very effective reduction in Note 15 is in reality one of the factors in inflation and unbridled growth and administrative discontinuity. During the war and its problems, some organizations wanted to spend money outside the regulations for public accounts and other regulations. Naturally, when this happens, there will be disorganization in the administration of affairs. Therefore, the Plan and Budget Commission decided to lower this ceiling to 40 billion rials to make fundamental reforms to restore the nation's costs and system of management and to return control to the Public Accounts Law.

Continuing, he added: I believe that instead of expanding the public services sector and making scattered investments in the public services sector, we must concentrate investments in the fundamental and producing areas. Likewise, we must create income for a few years for the deprived areas, and for the genuine rural people. If we think about employment, production, and raising the incomes of our rural people, certainly that rural area will be a place of rest and in reality a rural retreat, and consequently they will emigrate to the city. Of course in this regard the Plan and Budget Commission has give special attention to making fundamental investments in the rural areas.

The pressure of borrowing and the budget deficit in 1369 does not mean that there will be a continued increase in the budget and in borrowing, rather it is a final stage, and according to the tables in the Five-Year Plan, and God willing, it will decrease next year, and by 1372 it will be reduced to zero.

Continuing his remarks, the Zarand deputy discussed taxes. He said: It is appropriate and fair to thank the brothers for the growth in taxes. You can see this in the composition of the budget. In the year 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988] our taxes were 1,139 billion rials, 1,171 billion rials in 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989], 1,406 billion in 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], and 1,624 billion in 1369. We have consistently increased the share of taxes in the public revenues.

He also added: Some of the brothers have traditionally expressed opposition to the government's plans and budgets over the last seven to eight years during the war of the hard-working brother Engineer Musavi (in such a way that they appeared to have been born in a state of opposition), but today we see that they have signed up with the supporters. I am happy, and I said His Holiness the Imam should be here to see that at least his advice has taken effect after his death. The gentlemen who put sticks between the spokes of the government's wheels during the war and who condemned the government despite His Holiness the Imam's plain statements, these people have come forward to defend the government of Mr. Hashemi. In practice, however, we have seen that it is not this way and in reality it was the same self-interest, grave digging, and the continuation of the same policies, and in reality it was politics and election talk. I think that this matter will remain for more than two years until the elections, the brothers must not hurry. If they want to talk, let them go to the bazaar and other places to talk. If they begin thinking pessimistically now, the policies of the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani will fail, trust in God. Cooperate with Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and tell your friends in the bazaar, who unfortunately have not given up hoarding, and even some of the leaders, who were not willing to distribute potatoes among the people, are advising that on New Year's Eve they let go of the throats of the people and suck less of their blood.

Behzadian (Opposition)

Mr. Behzadian, Qa'enat deputy, spoke as the seventh opponent. He said: Let me begin by expressing my happiness with those who have always opposed the government's budgets over many years, and who have in effect become professional opposition members, who have now supported both the Five-Year Plan and the budget. Of course, in giving this support they are solving their own problems and saying things they have been unable to say over the past 10 years.

He added: The budget bill, which the Majles labored over and enacted, we would like to have implemented paragraph by paragraph. Unfortunately, I know of various instances of notes in the budget for 1368 that have never been implemented. He said: I say insistently to the respected government that after the budget bill is enacted it must be implemented in its entirety.

He discussed traditions from the sayings of his holiness 'Ali (peace be upon him) and Imam Reza (peace be upon him) concerning the necessity for justice in order to reform society and make the government strong. He said: Clearly, one of the characteristics of the nation's annual budget must be the creation of social and Islamic justice, and the contentment of the people. This is the only factor for government remaining in power. The national budget must be anti-inflationary, taxes must be collected from huge fortunes, and to create employment, the just distribution of wealth and the reduction of poverty have specific methods. Does our budget for next year have these solutions and methods, or not? Unfortunately, in the budget the government has submitted, we have seen that sometimes it is seeking general authorizations from the Majles, and that the budget in some cases is vague and silent, as in Note 29 where the entire foreign exchange budget is summarized on a line and a half, and a general authorization is taken to spend the foreign exchange budget. Fortunately, the Plan and Budget Commission amended that.

He added: Naturally, the direction of the budget depends on the structure of society. Our strategy in the Five-Year Plan is to expand exports and replace imports, and sometimes we even saw that foreign policy was influenced by our policy to expand exports, but will a society whose added value is in its services and business move towards expanded exports?

The speaker added: We do not see preventing the expansion of the service sector and expanding industry in the budget, and the mechanism the government has chosen for the sale of foreign exchange will in my opinion unleash inflation and destroy the value of the rial against foreign currencies. It will make inflation a part of our economy and this matter is important. Unfortunately, we have not found any solution in our budget to destroy the wealth accumulation centers, and places such as the Islamic Economy Organization have emerged as trusts or interest-free loan trusts. If these things are not controlled, in the future they will threaten the entire sovereignty of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The speaker presented figures and statistics concerning investments provided in the Five-Year Plan for the people. He said: In the budget for 1369, have we provided so well for the well-being of workers and low-income people that they will be able to invest in addition to their expenses? The second point is that in the Five-Year Plan we plan to employ 600,000 unemployed people annually. If we say that we will spend 100,000 tomans for each of these 600,000 people to create employment, I do not see that the level of this investment exceeds that of the entire fixed capital investment budget for 1369. Therefore I say that for these reasons under the budget for 1369 we cannot in practice reach the goals we approved in the Five-Year Plan, which now exists as a law. All the nations that emerge from economic difficulties make investments in areas with added value and production and which can turn society's economic wheels. Unfortunately we make most of our investments in the early years of the plan in sectors that will only produce inflation, such as the creation of housing. Housing in the country is necessary and I accept it, but it is clearly more correct for us to start up industries. Continuing, Mr. Behzadian said: However, with regard to the policy of selling foreign exchange, it was not specified to the Majles last year to what extent the government would sell competitive foreign exchange and to what extent it would sell foreign exchange directly on the marked to be injected into our society. And what was and is the government's goal in doing this? They say collecting currency in circulation, bringing down the price of foreign exchange and breaking inflation. If it is the policy of the government to collect currency in circulation, why does the government come in on the other side and open up the doors of the banks with no restrictions to provide bank instruments for a few capitalists?

The respected president said in an interview a few days ago: "We will reduce the amount of rials required to open a credit account to 25 percent." When a person opens a credit account and puts down 25 percent of his purchase instead of 80 percent, that means you return 60 percent of that currency in circulation to the market for six to eight months while he brings his goods to market from abroad. Therefore, evidently your policy in selling competitive foreign exchange does not collect foreign exchange, or if it does, these parts of it are in conflict.

With regard to your statement that our goal in selling competitive foreign exchange is to bring down the price of foreign exchange, this is also a tangible thing and it goes without saying. As for your statement that the policy in selling competitive foreign exchange on the market is to start industries, this is a very good policy, that you want to bring industries to full capacity. We hope this succeeds, and we are his helpers and colleagues in this work, but what has happened to date? A few factories are now working three shifts? A few factories are now working two shifts? A few factories are now working one full shift?

Another point that has been made about selling competitive foreign exchange is that it will break inflation. It is possible that the Central Bank's figures on the basic goods show a 10 percent drop in inflation, but will we have a reduction in inflation if our indicator is for strategic goods and other goods?

Continuing, he criticized the sale of competitive foreign exchange and mentioned the matter of pricing production goods with the price of competitive foreign exchange. He said: Before the new policy, you had distribution under government supervision, but you see that the controlled goods are being sold at prices 10 times higher on the free market, and now you have provided assistance, the goods have arrived and according to the minister of commerce, they are not subject to fixed prices. You know what this will bring down on society.

You may be assured that the policy of selling foreign exchange will accelerate the flow of capital in society (and these policies have been completed with credit given by the banks) and create inflation.

The Qa'enat deputy continued: In the Five-Year Plan we have authorized borrowing $7.5 billion from abroad to complete the cycles of capitalized and fundamental production and industry, and the government is to provide a list of these industries. If you look now at the list provided, you will see that there is nothing other than an announcement of projects for which agreements in principle have been issued, such as the spinning and textiles factory. How do you expect to create a half-finished factory when industries and factories are idle?

Majd-Ara (Supporting)

Mr. Majd-Ara, Babolsar and Band-e Pey deputy, was the seventh speaker in support of the budget. He began by saying: Some opponents say that the budget for 1369 is not in accordance with the Five-Year Plan, and that it is not aimed at prosperity and social justice.

I think it necessary to speak in response to this claim using figures and statistics and referring to notes for the budget of 1369.

He noted: The notes pertaining to the reduction of poverty in relation to previous years, especially 1367, have increased significantly. In the year 1367, 2 billion

rials were allocated to the deprived areas, and in 1369 this figure increased to 43 billion rials under Note 37.

In Note 6, of 22 billion rials in the budget approved by the Plan and Budget Commission, 50 percent are allocated for the deprived areas, and in Paragraph A of Note 16, 30 billion rials have been provided for investment in the deprived areas, of which only 15 percent is provided as self-help by the people of the deprived areas, yet in the non-deprived areas the minimum level of self-help is 30 percent.

In Note 3 Paragraph A concerning employment and the creation of employment for the deprived, 75 billion rials in credit have been provided. In answer to the complaint that aid has been provided for bus service in Tehran while little attention in this regard has been paid to the small cities, he said: According to Note 19, 80 percent of the credit approved for the cities pertains to the non-central provincial cities, and in view of the dependence of the bus companies on the cities, of this figure 10 percent of the general budget of every municipality has been provided for the bus companies of the nation's cities. He then discussed the allocation of $3 billion in the budget in the Five-Year Plan for Karun dams three and four and Karkheh, and $1.5 billion for investment in 84,000 hectares for sugar cane cultivation in Khuzestan, and he said that we must not speak in such a way that the dear ones, especially the war victims and suffering people will feel cheated and think that nothing has been provided for them in the budget for 1369 or the Five-Year Plan.

He said: In the current budget bill for 1369 the projected figure for taxes to be collected is 1,623 billion dollars, yet in the Five-Year Plan taxes for 1369 are projected at 1,488 billion rials.

Answering those who oppose borrowing money from banks, he said: In the Five-Year Plan a decline is projected for the deficit and for borrowing, and ultimately this figure should reach zero.

He then presented figures on projected increases in the production of wheat, rice, feed, beets, oil-bearing seeds, and cotton, the increase in the area of land under cultivation, the consolidation of the land, and the establishment of pressurized irrigation in the plan for the year 1369. He said: By the end of the Five-Year Plan we must reduce foreign exchange expenditures on basic goods by about half a billion dollars.

In conclusion, he said with regard to the government companies: In the budget for 1369 a total of 600 billion tomans have been allocated for the costs of these companies, which is about 50 percent of the total budget. It is therefore necessary to have a mechanism to hold down the budgets of these companies, which has been provided in this plan.

Saleh-Abadi (Opposition)

Mr. Saleh-Abadi, Mashhad deputy, was the eighth speaker in opposition to the budget bill. He mentioned the importance of specialist manpower in the nation's administrative organizations in the Five-Year Plan, and said: Our administrative and executive organizations are the same organizations that formerly existed, and no basic changes have been made.

He then referred to the financial sources for the Five-Year Plan. He said: The sources provided, foreign exchange obtained from the export of oil and non-petroleum goods, also have to do with the borrowing provided in Note 29. The budget bill for 1369, which was presented to the Majles late, is no answer to the goals of the Five-Year Plan. He then discussed the goals of the Five-Year Plan in comparison with the budget bill, and he enumerated the points of divergence from the Five-Year Plan.

He asked that a sufficient opportunity be allowed to study the budget bill for 1369, and added: The current budget for 1369 is made up of four sections: (1) the general budget, (2) government companies, (3) banks, (4) police organizations affiliated with the government.

The Mashhad deputy added: The budget figures show an increase in the general budget and an increase in the budget for government companies, and this means a decrease in the development budget and is at variance with the the goals of the Five-Year Plan, which includes government organizations and decreases in the current budget and an increase in the development budget.

He mentioned the wartime conditions in the country that will exist for the next few years, the fall in the price of oil, and the plots of the East and the West to support the former government. He said: In wartime conditions inflation, high prices, poverty, and shortages are commonplace, and if the rate of inflation has dropped now, this is not an indication of the former government's uselessness, this is a natural thing, for when wartime conditions end, the severity of inflation is diminished.

Akrami (Supporting)

Mr. Akrami, speaking as the eighth supporter, discussed the fact that all the methods and basic and fundamental policies have been set forth in the Five-Year Plan, and on this basis alone we can see the budget for the year 1369. He said: Some of the brothers said work preparing this budget has not been thorough, but this is not correct because, in addition to having a framework that is the same as the Five-Year Plan, this year in the Mines and Industries Commission we even studied all the current and development columns and plans. Of course no one is saying that this budget has no problems.

Continuing, he said: I ask the deputies who fundamentally oppose the bill and consider it useless, do you have a plan and a view for eliminating the difficulties? Did you follow up on it? Did you fail to achieve a result after

presenting the plan and following up? Is is right for us to speak against the bill as pre-agenda speaker quoting at length from the Koran, the Traditions, and poetry, and then leave it to the care of God? Is it fair for you to compare Tehran, which is the mother city of Islam, with Khorasan, and then ask why its credit is not appropriate? He also answered the problems raised by Mr. Sadeqi-Azad concerning the budget for 1369. He said: They told him that we have shortages and this and that with regard to rural roads, missionaries, agricultural services, elementary schools, high schools, public baths, and health care centers. We must say that no one is denying the shortages, not only in the rural areas, but in the cities, at the provincial centers, at the national centers, there are certainly shortages, but compare the situation 10 years after the triumph of the Islamic revolution with that of 10 years ago. If we compare, we will see how much was done for the cities of this wide and great Islamic nation after the triumph of the Islamic revolution and how much was done for the rural areas. Hasn't the situation in the rural areas changed? Concerning the matter of borrowing, Mr. Akrami said: This is a natural element of life. Even now, if you need something and you do not have the resources to procure it, what do you do? You either buy it on time or go and get a loan. As a proper model for managing a country, should one sit with hands folded and do nothing because there is a shortfall? Or should one finally choose a way that does minimum damage? If you say that borrowing is bad, even domestically, then look at all the interest-free loan funds. Their very name is interest-free loan. Look at all the loans, and tell me that borrowing is a bad thing.

He discussed the shortage of construction materials. He said: We all agree that we have a lot of half-finished projects, and one of the factors is the shortage of construction materials. If we want to eliminate the shortage of construction materials, how are we to do it?

In answer to Mr. Behzadian, he said: Who ever said that as soon as we start the Five-Year Plan all the factories would be working in three shifts? However, we all agree that even now the average growth of production in our factories is 15 to 20 percent. Can we deny this? Continuing his talk, Mr. Akrami mentioned a letter the Ministry of Commerce sent to the deputies. He read part of it, saying: In this letter, it says: "In the month of Bahman [21 January-19 February] we distributed 11,500 refrigerators and freezers to newlyweds, the families of martyrs, prisoners of war, handicapped people, and veterans throughout the country." Well, if you distribute more than 10,000 refrigerators in one month among these people, where do they come from? These are produced domestically, and that shows that we are growing in the area of production.

Ha'erizadeh (Opposition)

The ninth speaker in opposition to the budget for 1369 was Mr. Abolhasan Ha'erizadeh, Birjand deputy. He mentioned his opposition in previous years to the budget bill, and said that the main reason for his opposition to the 1369 budget bill is its failure to conform to the Five-Year Plan.

He said: To add 80 billion to the money borrowed is against the Five-Year Plan. On the one hand we come and say that the esteemed leader has laid special emphasis on the Five-Year Plan, and on the other hand a representative of the Ministry of Defense comes as the leader's representative and adds 80 billion to the monies borrowed in Note 22. If you say you will pay it back by 1372, what will you do in 1372?

In the budget for 1369 tax revenues, according to the Five-Year Plan, are to be 1,688 billion rials, and the government has given the figure 1,623 billion in its own bill. Why are 65 billion rials fewer provided in the budget bill than are given in the plan? Is the government thinking of collecting fewer taxes in 1369? Likewise, oil revenues increased 58 billion, gas 19.9 billion, and other revenues increased 148 billion, but they have left domestic borrowing exactly as provided in the plan. If oil revenues are to increase, then why does the government leave borrowing the same as in the plan? It deviates from other parts of the plan, but this part is left according to the plan. They say that taxes will be 65 billion rials fewer than the plan provides in 1369, but borrowing will be at the same levels provided in the plan. The return from previous years will not be 133 billion. Here again is a hidden budgetary shortfall, which, like it or not, is being transferred to complete the 1369 budget.

He then said that the expected foreign exchange revenues from the export of non-petroleum goods are unrealistic. He said: Throughout the plan, $4.4 billion in carpet exports is projected, and no mechanism is provided for customs and the raw materials to show how this $4.4 billion will arrive, and no special custodian for carpet exports has been designated.

Ha'erizadeh continued: In public affairs, 17 billion has been added to the bill compared to the plan. Likewise, 60 billion has been added to the judicial registry, an organization that operated with 9 billion a few years ago, and now the nation's judicial section has reached 60 billion. This is a frightening increase, and where are you going to cut it? Two billion has been added over the plan for carrying out domestic policy, and the same amount remains for maintaining domestic security. Yet during the war we operated domestic security with the same amount. Why must we add 9 billion to domestic security over the ceiling set in 1368? Likewise, for foreign policy 7.3 billion was added over the plan, 13 billion for financial administration, and for statistics and public services 0.3 billion. For the public relations section, 43 billion was added, there was a 35 percent increase over 1368 for the manpower administration section, and 17 percent was added to the defense affairs budget over that provided in the Five-Year Plan. So what was the virtue of consolidating the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of the Revolutionary Guard? Other increases over the provisions of the plan are 41 billion for social affairs,

2.9 billion for culture and art, and 30 percent for preserving the environment. There was a decrease of 51 billion for the economic affairs section and four billion for the water resources section compared to the provisions of the plan. The electrical resources section was increased 200 million tomans, which bears no relationship to water. The oil section also increased 15 billion above the provisions of the Five-Year Plan.

In conclusion, he said: The import of luxury goods must be prevented and if they are imported, customs duties must be several times greater.

Faregh (Supporting)

Mr. Faregh, Dezful deputy, was the ninth speaker in support of the budget for 1369. He mentioned the comments from the commission expert and said: Our dear brother the expert on the Plan and Budget Commission once again had an ideal budget, and he explained the characteristics of an ideal budget. It is my belief, however, that a budget is ideal when it is in harmony with the human being.

He added: A human being has two parts, body and psyche, and if the budget can cover those two dimensions, it is ideal.

The Dezful deputy thanked the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the government of Engineer Musavi, and the Plan and Budget Commission for submitting the Budget for 1369 to the Majles. He said: To an extent this budget goes in the direction of the existence of the human being. It covers both the material and physical dimensions of the human being, and it also pays attention to the cultural and spiritual dimensions. If Notes 10 to 17 of the budget bill are studied, these matters will become clear.

He added: The critics who say it is not necessary to buy the cement factory must realize that we must have the cement factory to provide housing for the people, and without these factories the housing problem will not be solved within 10 years.

He emphasized: The budget for 1369 moves in the direction of the interests of the deprived and the oppressed.

He noted: Those who say that bank resources are being given to gangsters must realize that of the 150 billion rials in bank resources provided, 75 billion rials will be given to veterans and another 75 billion rials will be paid to the nation's tribes, which produce the nation's dairy needs.

He answered Mr. Saleh-Abadi's opposition. He said: His principal opposition was that the government was late in submitting the budget to the Majles. He must realize that this year the government submitted two budgets to the Majles, the Five-Year Plan and the budget for 1369, and the government's work is laudable.

In answer to Mr. Ha'erizadeh's opposition, the Dezful deputy said: He said: He wants to know why some goods are imported from abroad at the expense of domestic products, and it must be said that the people have high purchasing power and the nation's markets are hot, and the more goods domestic producers are able to market, the more profits will be made.

Rashidian (Opposition)

The final opponent to the budget for 1369 was Mr. Rashidian, Abadan deputy. He said: What appears every year in the budget are unrealistic figures, far from society's tangible reality. One of the ill effects of this planning is that every year we see many problems that get more complicated every day, and unfortunately even the deputies are not aware of these problems.

Mr. Rashidian added: One issue that ought to be considered in this plan is the problems that exist, foremost among them the matter of reconstruction.

He said: All the nation's officials believe that reconstruction is the first thing that must be dealt with.

He said: Another matter that must be dealt with is the question of unemployment, especially the unemployment produced by the imposed war, which is doubled unemployment, and my question is, what solution has been provided for this?

He noted that our society's pattern of consumption is still the same one that existed before the revolution. He said: Our pattern of consumption is idolatrous, and unfortunately all our groups and offices are caught in idolatrous formalities, and under this plan we will not be able to move to the Islamic pattern.

He added: While the brothers talk constantly of the budget shortfall, they themselves are consumers more than everyone else, and there is also waste.

The speaker cited unemployment as the next problem. He said: Until you solve the unemployment problem, corruption, ethical deviation, bribery, and influence peddling will continue to exist, and in view of the fact that one of the most important factors is unemployment, efforts must be made to solve this great social problem.

The Abadan deputy discussed the nation's agricultural problems. He said: In view of the words of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni (may God have mercy on him), special attention must be paid to the nation's agriculture. Our nation has great talent for agricultural work and is prepared to do agriculture, but in this budget there is no focus on doing agricultural work, rather it emphasizes assembly industries.

In conclusion, he mentioned the shortage of foreign exchange and rial credits to rebuild the the nation's war-stricken areas. He said: There are 30 to 35 deputies from the war-stricken areas in the Majles, but in no year has the Plan and Budget Commission invited them to give their views.

Movahhedi-Saveji (Supporting)

The tenth supporter of the budget for 1369 was Mr. Movehhedi-Saveji, who began his talk by answering a supporter who had asked how some traditional budget bill opponents had become supporters. He said:

Under the former government, with regard to bills, plans, and projects we considered the interests of the government and the nation without prejudice for anyone, even friends. My view is that every deputy must consider God, the truth, and rights, and at all times and under all conditions he should say what he has to say based on the understanding he has between himself and God without any reluctance. Now he wants people to criticize or praise him. As a deputy, everyone who knows me knows that throughout this Majles term I have never positioned myself in the framework of parties, organizations, or groups, and praise God I will not do so. As long as I live, I will say what is true, righteous, and just. However, with regard to the fact that I speak in support of the budget today, the reason is that some of the main problems in former budgets have been eliminated, and in the future we hope that the current problems and weaknesses in the budget bill will be eliminated.

Continuing, he said: Everyone must respect the plan the Majles has approved. A brother who spoke against the plan before it was passed should not now come and on that basis oppose the budget that has been written based on the plan. We must therefore all respect the budget. Mr. Movahhedi said: We believe that concerning expenses, incomes, and foreign exchange and rial matters, the direction taken is toward service for the deprived, and this bill is better and stronger than the ones in previous years. The bill moves towards production and it will generate employment. The situation for development credits is much better and more generous. The Saveh deputy then stressed the necessity to establish social justice in society. He said: How and with what instruments is social justice to be achieved? Can social justice be achieved by keeping the people hungry? Can prosperity and economic growth be achieved by creating fear and distress among the people, and putting obstacles in the way of investments? Can social justice be achieved without health care and treatment, education, the basic necessities of life, and social security? Slogans cannot address the hunger of the people.

Continuing, he added: Insofar as the government of planning, thought, sincerity, faith, and work of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani has dealt with the true factors of economic growth, production growth, eliminating deprivation, and creating employment, we defend it, and the claim that there are people in the Majles and outside it who are acting to invest in the interest of a special group is false. Instead of playing these games, saying these slogans, and making these baseless accusation, come and do some real work. In the first and third terms of the Majles, we submitted a project to investigate the assets of all the nation's executive, judicial, and legislative officials, and finally to evaluate their responsibilities. Whoever obtains great wealth, it will be apparent whether they built a mansion or not, until we reach the point that we look at reality instead of playing these games and clinging to inappropriate things.

Aqa-Mohammadi (Supporter)

The final supporter of the budget bill was Mr. Aqa-Mohammadi, Hamadan deputy, who mentioned the question of social justice in the bill. He said:

When we talk about social justice, do we mean giving equal opportunities to society, or that everyone is required to be equal? If someone thinks everyone is required to be equal, he is either a liar or an idiot. Wise men agree that individuals differ according to their knowledge, level of education, specialization, and competence. The question now is, what kind of leverage can a law have in this? Who must be given equal opportunities? Under what conditions does a monopoly come into being? When we confine an activity to a group, it makes no difference whether it be the nation's bureaucracies, offices, or capitalists.

He added: In this bill we have broken monopolies and distributed resources. Have we given top priority to higher education or not? Concerning the question of qualified revolutionaries who should be in positions of leadership, haven't we given them appropriate privileges, that at the same time are not in conflict with work and effort? Have we provided the budgets for them or not? This shows that our direction is right and that we have no other way to go.

Mr. Aqa-Mohammadi then added: We divide society into three income groups, and we always take statistics on them, we have 40 percent low-income families, 40 percent middle-income families, and 20 percent high-income families. The share of low-income families in the gross national product for 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] was 12.7 percent. It rose to 13.86 percent in 1366, and to 14.21 percent in 1367. The share of high-income families in the gross national product in 1365 was 50.78 percent. In 1366 this figure fell to 49.39 percent, and in 1367 it fell to 48.86 percent. If we want to understand problems, we must look at the direction in which they are going. Everything will not change at once. We must look to those who are middle-level, has their ceiling spread more in society or not? Some of the opponent speakers were such that it appears to me if many crimes happened along side them, they would come and raise that lever, and they look at society as if we can divide things equally and all of society will become billionaires. This approach prevents people from being content with their rightful lot. In 1365, the gross national product was 14,500.65 billion, and if we convert that to per capita income, it becomes 29,000 tomans. If we convert it to family incomes, it becomes 150,000 tomans per family, and if instead of to the families we pay this money to the workers, who are

one-sixth to one-seventh of the population and divide it accordingly, if the gross national investment and income are justly divided, each worker would have to receive 1 million rials. If a person receives more than 1 million rials, he would be higher than that middle-income person, and on a monthly basis this becomes 80,000 tomans per month.

He also said: The government must procure basic services for these people, and in other affairs they must compete with one another with sufficient and complete information and with equal opportunities, and they will be able to advance the economic affairs in society.

The member of the Plan and Budget Commission discussed investment in society. He said: If we want to make changes, what must we do? We must raise investment in society. Look at the average for the last 10 years, we had 3,500 to 4,000 billion in investments. In the budget for 1369 we raised investment to 6,000 billion, and this will expand in the course of the Five-Year Plan. It must be understood that a nation that is moving towards investment will be under some pressure to consume less. If the nation's deputies want to endure this pressure, which is for the purpose of business and in order to destroy a severe dependence on imports and other things, they must take a different view of it. Aren't the people who want to build houses under pressure? Doesn't it destabilize life to make house payments? Now if someone wants to invest, it is proper to put pressure on consumption. Concluding his talk, he said:

If we want to save the people, we must apply this pressure, for when 28,000 billion is to be invested in five years, it either must be done or not. If the aim is for it not to be done, the country will be dependent on foreigners, and if it is to be done, the government will make 10,000 billion of it and the non-government sector will make the other 18,000 billion. This 18,000 billion will either be done by a special group or a majority of the people. If 50 to 60 percent of the people are to take part in this investment, I say you should divide this 18,000 billion among 14 million people of working age. This would be 125,000 tomans, or 2,000 tomans per month, or 25,000 tomans per year. The deputies must move society in this direction, of course not in the direction of consumption, which is a national crime.

Commission Expert's Defense

Mr. Hadi Ghaffari, the Plan and Budget Commission expert, spoke in defense of the budget bill. He said:

The points our brothers have made in opposition and support have to do with the political directions and general criticism of the economic structure and the plan. Where criticism of the plan is concerned, in any case the plan has been approved by this Majles, and it is a method that has been approved in the plan, and if the issue is conformity with the plan, it has nothing to do with a one-year budget. Above all I must say that the commission carried out this study under special circumstances, and it is not true that the commission met behind closed or open doors.

Finally, sometimes the gentlemen studied the budget until 2:00 AM, and we expected that if we did not receive praise, we would not be blamed either and that they would encourage us to work harder on future jobs.

The commission expert discussed limited partnership companies. He said: One of the friends mentioned taxes on the limited partnership companies. Basically, the limited partnership companies have a theological problem, and it must be determined if they are actually limited partnership companies. All the theologians said that the matter of setting profit rates at the outset is religiously unlawful, and then we know about the monopolies that have appeared. I expected that people who have attacked big government in this Majles for eight or nine years, and their attacks were acceptable, would at least accept the existence of a big limited partnership company over there if there is to be big government here. These companies buy a freight liner, and create a monopoly, and then an oppressed worker or employee with a fixed wage must go looking for the goods he needs for New Year's Eve.

In any case, I say emphatically to the Ministry of Finance from this very podium and I ask the judicial authorities not to be satisfied with a few reports. They must really study this destructive economic force in society and then make it clear what the people must do with these companies.

Mr. Ghaffari also criticized the waste in some organizations and announced: Why do you expend public funds on congratulations, condolences, and excessive ceremony? When school starts, your children do not have books; 40-page notebooks are scarce. What religious authority do you have to print booklets? Look at the report from the court of public accounts, and God willing an authority will look at the report from the court of accounts.

He also discussed the budget ceiling and its balance. He said: Concerning the budget ceiling and its balance, I must say that we did not accept any action outside the plan, but as to whether this budget is balanced or not, that goes back to the plan.

The commission expert then discussed inflation. He said: Inflation does not pertain only to money, we agree that the government must assert sovereignty, and that it must monitor the entry and exit of goods and the pricing of goods. In England, after World War II, accounts and records were even kept on potatoes and food and clothing for the people, and then these things were rationed. We often become more rightist than the right, and it is natural that inflation appears. When we let prices float and anyone can increase prices as much as he likes, inflation appears. He made the point that we never said we would reduce borrowing to zero in the first year

of the plan. He said: This year we have an additional 945 billion tomans in revenue, of which only 200 billion are borrowed. Borrowing is a process that is accepted in the Five-Year Plan, and we acted in accordance with that. Ultimately, at the end of the plan, God willing, we will bring the figure to zero. Concerning taxes, let me mention that this Majles believes that while the people must not be overtaxed, taxes must be taken from those engaging in commerce, especially in business, buying and selling, and merchants who put large amounts of money in their pockets, and this subject must be considered.

He added: He says we ought to approve one-twelfth of the budget, but he does not know that this also would have an inflationary effect, because we would not be able to invest with this one-twelfth. Approving one-twelfth of the budget is one of the worst things that could befall a country in time of war, strikes, and extraordinary circumstances, and this would mean political and economic instability and inflation, and these things are either true or not. He has a series of standard remarks to make if he supports a measure and another series of standard remarks to make in opposition. He said the same things in the previous term if he opposed a bill. We did not understand the source of his opposition to the budget then and we do not understand it now. We expected him to speak in defense on the financial issues.

He also said: One of the brothers discussed Tehran and some of the prosperous cities, which is proper. In classifying the province and the national budgets we did not look only at largeness and smallness, population and rate of growth, but a coefficient was used based on the aggregate of factors of population, villages, state of the soil, and investment resources.

He discussed the issues Mr. Behzadian raised in opposition to the budget. He said: He discussed the lack of a price-setting mechanism. We did not do this in the Plan and Budget Commission, and we believe thought must be given to that. Is it reasonable for us to let supply and demand determine price? This is completely unscientific and illogical. We did not agree to this in the commission.

Mr. Ghaffari discussed mention made by one of the deputies concerning national cooperative and reduced taxes. He said: This matter pertains to the respected government, and especially the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, and certainly our brother Mr. Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance, will give greater attention to the question from the Majles objection and question as to why it took almost a year to write the guidelines for national cooperative taxes. In this regard, if there is a problem with the guidelines or with regard to implementation, they raise it with the Majles.

Mr. Ghaffari discussed the differences in the prices for foreign exchange. He said:

Surely you do not want us to raise the price on the strategic goods needed by the people, which are rationed, such as wheat, rice, and vegetable shortening. If we did not sell foreign exchange to merchants for seven tomans, we would have to sell wheat for 50 tomans per kilogram. Bread is the general and primary food of the people. No one in this country or this Majles would ever allow us to raise the price on the common food of the people. Dollars are given to the Ministry of Commerce at seven tomans in connection with basic and necessary goods. If we were to buy photographic film, surgical thread, and other resources for hospitals with expensive foreign exchange, the price of treatment in the hospitals would be sky high, and therefore we will not do this.

He then discussed employment for war victims. He added: I say to the respected deputies from the war-stricken areas that the Afghanis come to our country and because they work they get somewhere, and I ask the Majles not to make a practice of letting a number of people collect money in this country without working. Create employment for the war victims so that they will gradually become self-sufficient.

Concerning employment taxes, the commission expert then stressed: The government must think about employment taxes, we say that we must collect taxes, and this is the religiously lawful right of the government and the nation. People who make money must pay the Islamic government its due and accept that this government is an Islamic government. Is someone evades taxes, he will be struck twice, once by the government and once by God.

The Government's Representative

After the remarks from the commission expert, the discussion was continued by the government's representative. He said: In the sections that pertain to the budget for 1369, a group of brothers tried to compare this budget with the Five-Year Plan, which was quite obscene. Unfortunately a group of people also criticized the budget in isolation from the plan. In my view, the criticism of the budget by these brothers who criticized it in isolation from the plan would have been appropriate had it been the budget for 1368, but in 1369 when we have a Five-Year Plan, repeated discussion of the budget, the effects of the budget, the structure of the budget, and the composition of revenues is not acceptable because every discussion the brothers have had about the characteristics and details of the budget were precisely clarified previously in the Five-Year Plan. The structure of revenues was clarified, the structure of expenses was clarified, employment was clarified, agriculture was clarified, the question of industry was clarified, the question of reconstruction was clarified, and all the other points the brothers raised as negative points for the budget of 1369 have been treated in the Five-Year Plan. I feel that the essence and the logic of the Five-Year Plan must be brought more into the open. In a word, the Five-Year Plan is a plan to adjust the nation's economy.

World imperialism never allowed us to heal such a wound, and it even caused the aggravation of some of

these wounds during the war. A patient may need to be bled to be restored to health; these operations go with his body. Certainly blood will be shed with these operations. In the short term the patient will not feel well from these operations. We must not expect to implement the policies we designed for the Five-Year Plan and then have all the economic signs and indicators turn positive in six months while we achieve economic equilibrium. We have no problem with regard to the nation's economy, five years in the future will be five years of applying these operations, and they will at least be effective in part of the nation's economic activities.

In some of the sections I explain in the Five-Year Plan, the brothers concentrate their remarks on prices, then they go back and talk about prices, the sale of foreign exchange on the market, preferred foreign exchange and competitive foreign exchange, saying this itself has created negative effects in the economy, intensified the lack of balance, increased the prices of goods, and this foreign exchange has gone in directions we had not intended. The brothers must realize that in the budget for 1368 we authorized the government to sell $245 billion in foreign exchange on the market at that same price. Basically this was not a correction to the economy. Who should it do this for? You yourself saw that the budget deficit increased. We decided that the effects of increasing the budget deficit would create greater economic imbalance than selling foreign exchange at preferred prices, and this we authorized the government to do. Why should the government be criticized in this regard? Moreover, in the past, in the budget for 1360, we said that the sale of foreign exchange had no direction. The Majles gave us no special direction, to tell us what goods this foreign exchange should support. We left this to the government, and the government itself did this, not only in the budget for 1368, but in previous years as well. What happened and what the government did is that it directed foreign exchange towards unused industrial capacity, and we invested in that. If we had not operated them, they would have wasted away and disappeared, and if we had not produced, this money and this demand (because of the pressure of demands) would have come into the economy illegally, through unofficial networks, and through special relationships over which the government has no control. Why did smuggling increase in the country over the last 10 years? It has nothing to do with border control. The brothers must realize that as long as prices are not brought into balance in such a way that it is not profitable for some fellow to smuggle, these problems will continue.

Mr. Zanjani added: What the government did was to designate 131 items as necessary goods needed by the country, it came and put them into this group of goods, and our worker, instead of working 30 percent, he works with the 60 percent goal set in the past. Where is the objection? At no time in the course of the plans has the government ever claimed that we would not have inflation. We have only agreed in the plan that we will have eight percent inflation in 1372. The high rate of inflation now has to do with the rapid rise in prices. We are not saying we will not have inflation, we are saying that we reduced inflation in the year 1366 with a short-term policy. One of the brothers asked me what goods have gone down in price, the point being that prices did not go down. Those brothers ought to be asking, if we had not carried out these policies, how high would prices have gone? From 28 or 29 percent, inflation has now dropped to 20 percent, and this is the indicator for us. The brothers ought to be discussing this. In the Five-Year Plan you authorized the government to adjust prices. On the one hand the brothers say that the foundations must take losses and be subsidized, meaning that the government foundations and companies ought to buy the goods they sell with their own funds, not only must they spend their own funds to meet their financial and economic needs, but this same income must be used for expansion and new investment. Brothers, your National Steel Company has sustained losses of 10 billion tomans. In the Five-Year Plan you told the government that this company must not operate at a loss! If you don't want it to operate at a loss, what should it do? (1) It should increase its capacity from 900,000 or 1 million tons of cast iron to 1.9 million tons. (2) The structure of the company should be adjusted, if the personnel composition is abnormal, it must be adjusted. It did all of these things, it injected money. The finished production cost, in addition to the one percent that will compensate for expended capital, must be collected from the people. Should it do this or not? Or should it again go to the public budget and obtain funds to invest to compensate for expended capital? This is in direct conflict with that strategy that says our economy must no longer be based on one product. At some point the National Steel Company must receive government support, from the standpoint of both the investments and the subsidies that we have already paid. After that, not only must it stand on its own feet, but it must invest from its own resources and pay taxes to the government, and it should even treat the investments the government has made as loans and pay them back. In the administration of the economic and even anti-economic foundations, under the Five-Year Plan all the investments for the government companies are treated as loans and must be repaid one day, and none of the government companies have paid them back. Do you think the nation's economy can be managed in this way? There is no possibility that we will be able to preserve the nation's industrial structure in this way. The brothers say that one aspect of subsidies is price adjustment. Where is the procurement source for the support organization's subsidies? They say that the goods that come from abroad are priced differently than the goods produced domestically. We take the difference and adjust the prices of the imported goods to match that of the domestic products. This is acceptable, but what factor caused the finished price of the foreign product to be cheap? We do not have a good operating capacity. Management may have a problem with personnel structure, but another factor is the seven-toman dollar. You sell seven-toman dollars, you buy wheat from Australia and then it comes out at two tomans on the domestic

market, with domestically-produced wheat comes out at 11 tomans. Then you take the difference and then sell to the city. The price the economy has set will not permit your production to increase. I went to the Energy Commission and they asked why the price of water has gone up. In Tehran, some of the pipes that had been invested out of the public and oil budgets have deteriorated. According to the information we have, 30 percent of them have been lost, 30 percent of them are above ground only. If we want to procure water for Tehran, we must go to the public budget. For what reason? Gonaveh water, they say, can be bought for 20 tomans. This is social justice, one person pays 20 tomans in Gonaveh for potable water and nothing is spent from the public budget, but subsidies have to be paid to Tehran. Why should we pay subsidies? Then on the one hand they say that the deprived sector is left and they all go to Tehran. Then we built the Lar, Karaj, and Taleqan dams, and what effect did this have on Mazandaran, Taleqan, Karaj, and Rabat-e Karim? At one time when they built dams, agriculture dried up because its water went to Tehran. Tehran always gets subsidies. We pay subsidies for the same electricity whose price we apparently set. There are subsidies on the gas used by your power companies. If we sell gas abroad and earn income on it, it will be subsidized. We will be able to say that industry is on its own feet when the price of its completed goods is equal to that of a Turkish or Pakistani warehouse. Then we will be able to say that our warehousing is economical.

A Turkish warehouser comes and buys oil from us and spends all this money and produces steel to bring back and sell to us. They spend it for them, but domestically every year billions of rials are paid in subsidies, and we helped the steel company. On the one hand they say to reduce borrowing. The brothers know the effects of borrowing better than I do, we have to adjust the economy. The logic of this plan is basically a program to adjust the economy. What Mr. Mohammadi said is very subtle, precise, and scientific. We have created conditions where a number of privileged people are enjoying their own monopoly, although aware of themselves. The production elements must lead the field of competition. A manager who enjoys the government's unilateral support, whatever he does must be under government support. If he takes a loss, the government must subsidize him, for what reason? There are problems from the point of view of law, common law, and religious law. In my view a government manager should receive support until he is on his feet financially, after that he should be held accountable. The market for finished prices must accept him. We do not know what indicator to use to explain social justice. Our indicators are the indicators for the distribution of family incomes, beyond that, nothing. What we have to say to these brothers is, what is the dividing line between family incomes in society? It was a good process, but in some years in the past we were unable to bring these income groups close together. The main root of the first issue is borrowing, followed by the lack of production. If you get production going in this country, certainly the gap in incomes will narrow. Let us work with the principle that in this country a person ought to have an income so that he works and the work also supports the economic situation. If he can do this, he should remain, and if not, he should not receive futile government support. According to the report from the Interior Ministry, our economy supports 2 million Afghanis. These people have gone to work and the brothers know the effects of this employment. In the eastern part of the country they know the problems, they have acquired land and homes, and then we talk about the unemployment in this country. I claim that not a single person with a specialty is unemployed in this country. Why are the wages and benefits going up for people who work in this country, yet the rest of the people are not willing to go to work? Are conditions worse for us than they are for our Afghani brothers? What is genuine with humanity and labor is also with the labor. Let us leave the field of competition open for those who are qualified. It is no criterion to listen to everyone who says he ought to have privileges. Allow the producers to compete. The economy will prosper, and in this prosperity a few people will be hurt.

In 1369 you allocated close to 1,000 billion rials for education and training, yet taxes in 1368 were no more than 110 billion rials. Why did we raise expectations? Why didn't we establish linkages such as efficiency and wages? One ought to be paid in accordance with the amount of work he does. You cannot increase resources at the same rate as population growth. That is, you accept that poverty exists. This variable is used in the Five-Year Plan. Emigration and unemployment are among the effects of increased population. When a family becomes large and an individual cannot take care of his children, this sets the stage for the spread of crime. Population growth, which is now 3.2 percent, will fall to 2.3 percent in 1990, and the movement of society is so slow that our brothers say that we will not reach it. Very well, if we don't reach it, what will the effects be, who will be hurt? It will hurt the farmer. We try to increase production at the rate of population growth. When the Five-Year Plan was brought to the respected Agricultural Commission, they were talking about 14 percent growth, yet the maximum agricultural growth seen in the next five years for agriculture was six percent. Why do you say that priority was not given to agriculture in this bill? The credits that have been allocated to agriculture and water show that they are closely connected. In the last two or three years 18 to 20 percent of the projects that were to be implemented were completed, and that means that 80 percent of your projects are being adjusted, are taking extra money from you and are inflationary. We inject money, but production does not reach the mark because there is no connection between the investment and the physical scales in the economy, meaning that we must adjust the procurement of the reinforcing bars, cement, and machinery we need for our investments in building construction, bridge building, and machinery. The contractors say they are willing to use machinery just as it is given to them, but since none is given they are obliged to

buy it on the open market. They buy a 1-million-toman machine for 12 million tomans, and the result is that its price is added to the finished price. Your project, which ought to be completed for 100 million tomans, is completed for 200 million tomans. This is a waste of resources. If this scale is not balanced in the Five-Year Plan in relation to the physical scale we have organized, 4,000 billion in investment will be added. For the 1369 budget the investment plan needs $200 million in foreign exchange on the physical scale, and we will have to answer for this very added investment, which is 1,000 billion rials. Let there be no failure to make adjustments, or decisions that encourage the failure to make adjustments. We must make decisions in the framework of the Five-Year Plan. I do not say that the Five-Year Plan is 100 percent correct and has no problems, but it is better than throwing everything together. Having things mixed together is worse. The brothers must realize that that our taxation of the gross national product as an economic indicator has decreased to four percent, meaning that if our gross national product is 3,000 billion rials, we will take four percent by force at fixed prices, while neighboring countries take seven to 20 percent. In the course of the plan we have doubled eight percent. How can the brothers say that taxes have decreased? The 110 billion tomans of 1368, with a 50 percent increase, is 160 billion tomans. I believe, and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance believes that it cannot meet its responsibilities with these organizations, with this aggregation, and with this structure. The 160 billion tomans is a success for this country, although it is not what we had in mind and wanted, but we must reduce the damage to the economy and make use of taxation, which is a most important lever with two functions, serving to encourage both government and production. We agree with what has been said in the Majles about services and we agree we should apply taxes where money is idle. One of the problems we have is that if we want to restrict the service sector and move it in the direction of production, then what Mr. Aqa-Mohammadi said about intelligence must be implemented in our area. There are capitalists and wealthy people who want to invest but do not know how to write a project. I talked about this at an industrial seminar. Why not publish the projects that are written? Why don't we give them to people who have capital and want to invest? We must write a project that reduces the capital in the service sector and draws it into production. If we are to carry out this strategy, the narrow views that prevail in places must disappear.

In the Five-Year Plan you agreed that this refinery should be built, you gave it a foreign exchange budget, it just needs authorization to go to the extent of 100 or 800, or any other figure they want to set. Is there a problem if the nation's executive power has the power to maneuver? The pattern of consumption is subject to variation, in all countries it is fixed. These three variables are decisive and clear in setting the consumption of a one-person family or a social group: (1) The function of that family or social group's income, (2) the price of that merchandise, (3) psychological and cultural factors and values.

He added: One issue the brothers raised in their remarks was the deprivation of some regions in the nation. We allocated special credits for 225 of the nation's deprived districts in four sections, in addition to the provincial budget. Concerning the province budget, which is designed by the Planning Committee, we said they should write a province budget if they want one. In these areas we estimated 40 billion tomans, based on these indicators, although the districts have not yet been distributed in detail, and I don't know where the brothers got these numbers and figures. If work in this area was done in the respected Majles, I haven't heard anything about it, but we only used general numbers and figures, and wrote guidelines for the deprived districts.

He added: Another issue raised was the question of contractor borrowing in the budget for 1369. Of course, we had no contractor borrowing in the 1369 budget bill, and what was put forward by the government was for the reconstruction regions. In the Five-Year Plan, the brothers divided the credits for this matter over four years, and they designated 81 billion for 1369. What we are saying to the Majles is that if we are able to spend more than 81 billion, we can use the credits for the years 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993], and 1372. All we have given is lawful credits, and we insist on this, because due to the political and social effects of reconstruction, we must do this as quickly as possible so that the war-afflicted brothers and sisters can return to their own regions and this potential manpower can be turned into an active, productive force. We now spend an annual 50 to 52 billion to support these dear refugees, therefore if we can carry out reconstruction as soon as possible, it will be most desirable economically, socially, and politically.

Elsewhere in his talk, he added: Concerning the waste mentioned by the brothers, it would be better to prevent this by enacting legal instruments in the Majles. In my view it would be be better also to use evidence when dealing with this area.

He noted: Concerning the changes in the nation's executive organizations, which is discussed also in the Five-Year Plan, in all fairness the government has taken positive and effective steps in this area during the past six months, and it is in the process of studying and reforming the nation's executive organizations.

Explanations of the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance

Then Dr. Nurbakhsh, minister of economic affairs and finance, gave a talk defending the government's new policies. With reference to the circumstances under which the new government was formed, he said: Based on the report from the Central Bank for 1367, the public budget was faced with a severe imbalance unprecedented in the history of Iran's economy. That year the government's budget deficit reached 6,160 billion rials, which was 75 billion rials more than the government's income that year. The extensive expansionary effects from the

activities of the government's financial section, along with relatively high growth in the banking system's system of payments to the non-government sector created a significant increase in the currency in circulation in the private sector beyond the goal set in the financial policies for the year 1367. The situation with currency in circulation shows, and it is what determines demand in society as a whole.

Elsewhere in this report it states that the production and industry sections of the existing statistics on the large industrial factories show that in 1367 the production indicator shows a 7.2 percent drop in production over the previous year, and in reality this production indicator shows overall industrial activities. A study of the statistics published by the Ministry of Industries on industrial production shows a severe drop in the level of production in the greater part of industrial products for 1367, so that of the 88 items studied in the major industrial units for which statistics were taken, 58 items were faced with reduced production.

In reality, this has to do with the supply of goods in the supply section, which is in reality the volume of goods produced and marketed in society. It shows a decrease of about 7.4 percent.

Elsewhere in the Central Bank report it states: The government's current payments increased 17.4 percent, the growth of credits for fixed capital reached 13.2 percent, and with the more rapid growth of current payments compared to development payments, the budget structure found better balance as the share of development credits in the government's budget payments dropped from 20 percent in 1366 to 19 percent in 1367. In this regard, Dr. Nurbakhsh said: If we compare this share with the outcome of the budget for 1368, development credits are mainly concerned with the creation of new capacity, meaning production, while current payments are concerned with salaries and wages. This is the very thing that was severely criticized in the budget by the respected deputies. The extensive effects of the expansion arising from the government sector's debt to the banking system along with the rapid growth of banking organizations into the non-government sector caused currency in circulation to grow 23.8 percent from the end of 1366 to reach 15,687 billion rials, and this 23 percent represented an increase in demand. On the other hand, in the supply and production growth sector, there was a growth of 7.5 percent in production, which is actually negative growth and shows a greater breach between these two compared to 1368 and the matter of foreign exchange policies. One way was that we could have accepted the increased budget at the level expected. Therefore an increased budget deficit would produce more currency in circulation, and an increase in the currency in circulation would widen the breach between supply and demand.

He compared currency in circulation with the level of government indebtedness to the banking system. He said: If we compare currency in circulation with the level of government indebtedness to the banking system, which is the source of this growth in currency in circulation and in reality the source of demand that is created in society, in view of the reduced production, we will find a greater gap between the two. In 1360 [21 March 1981-20 March 1982], the currency in circulation was about 5,200 billion rials and the government debt was about 2,900 billion rials. In 1361 [21 March 1982-20 March 1983], the currency in circulation was 6,400 billion rials, the government debt 3,800 billion rials. In 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985], the currency in circulation was 7,900 billion rials, against the government debt of 5,400 billion rials, and finally in 1367, there was about 11,000 billion rials in government debt compared to 15,000 billion rials currency in circulation. In other words, in view of the expenses and the fixed process of managing the affairs of society, the government must pay its expenses, and for these expenses, those who are the recipients of these funds produce the currency in circulation in the private sector. We are talking about the balance between these two and to what extent the government can retrieve this currency in circulation, and in reality for the government to obtain income and on the other hand to meet its expenses depends on a balanced relationship between revenues. Regarding foreign exchange revenues, he said: Oil revenue is one of the government's chief sources of revenue, and it constitutes a part of the government's total revenue in the budget, and the foreign exchange from oil exports has been given to society at 70 rials for general production. Some of this production at 70 rials, however, has not been made available to society, because the prices of many products on the free market are several times that. If we look at the cost of finished production based on the 70-rial dollar, or in view of the type of product and the priority we have given to the producer, we will see a new kind of classification in the types of foreign exchange costs. In reality this is what has been done in the new policies to divide foreign exchange income as competitive foreign exchange and government foreign exchange provided to the production sector.

Mr. Nurbakhsh discussed the procurement of basic goods and investment activities in society. He said: We tried to meet needs on the basis of the actual official price for the dollar, which is 70 rials, and for this reason we put all production in this category that has to do with mines and metals and some of the products of heavy industry.

He gave statistics on the government sector's net debt and the quantities of currency notes and coinage. He said: The government's net debt grew about 14 percent in 1367, and about 10 percent in the first nine months of 1368, [21 March-21 December 1989], dropping about four percent. Currency notes and coins made up about 23 percent of the total currency in circulation in 1367, and about 18 percent of it in 1368, meaning that we found it necessary to issue fewer currency notes.

Concerning the level of credit expansion, Dr. Nurbakhsh said: The level of expanded credit to import raw materials and to employ goods produced was about 50 percent more in 1368 than in 1367. Of course when a purchase is made, a product is imported and time goes by before it is converted to the final product.

He then answered critics of the new policies, who say that increasing the price of competitive foreign exchange will cause the prices of goods produced from it to increase accordingly and inflation will thereby be created. He said: Some products have now been priced for perhaps the top 90 percent of the consumers in society. With this new system and method, certainly, according to what the minister of industries and the other ministers announced, the prices of goods of this kind will decrease.

For example, juicers are in the group whose raw materials will henceforth be purchased with competitive foreign exchange. It now costs 5,000 tomans on the market. Based on the way its price will be set with this new method, it will be something on the order of 3,500 tomans. Paper napkins, which now cost more than 90 tomans, will cost about 20 tomans with the new system. With this method, we will both be able to collect the currency in circulation needed in society and make it available to the government and help balance the budget, and it is better to do that. On the other hand, the quantity of goods on the market will increase, and if the factories work at full capacity, prices will be broken.

Dr. Nurbakhsh then answered opponents with regard to taxes. He said: Some of the brothers say that, God forbid, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance is opposed to collecting taxes, or that there has been less of this since I took over this ministry. Their comments suggest that our system of tax collection used to work very well and that there were no problems, but that problems have now appeared, and for example we do not want to collect taxes. I think all these remarks revolve around politics.

He said: Concerning overall taxes approved in 1368, they total 1,000 billion and 150,000 billion rials in direct and indirect taxes, 255 billion rials also come from cooperative taxes, for a total of about 1,400 billion rials.

He said: At the end of the month of Bahman this year [19 February] 1,054 billion rials in taxes should have been collected in accordance with the 1368 budget. The total collected for the 11 months is 1,028 billion rials, meaning about 22 or 23 billion rials have not been collected, and that is associated with the government companies and taxes on cigarette sales.

He added: With regard to employment taxes, which is a sensitive area of taxation, in 1365 100 billion rials were to be collected, while 54 billion rials were actually collected, and this was not criticized. In 1366 100 billion rials should have been collected, but only 76 billion rials were collected, and there was no opposition to this.

In 1367 100 billion rials were budgeted, but 86 billion rials were collected, in 1368 100 billion rials were budgeted, and in the first 11 months of the current year [21 March 1989-19 February 1990] 100 billion rials were collected. Now if we are to be blamed for doing a year's work in 11 months, we will have to answer to a lot of these objections, but if it is something else I ask that you say it, play another reel and give the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance a break and allow us to do our work, for we are busy carrying out many tasks.

He discussed the gold and goldsmith's guild, where it was said that a transaction of 60 million tomans was done with them. He said: As much as we looked into this, we could never verify it. There was a discussion between the minister of economic affairs and finance and the Supreme Council of Guild Affairs concerning participation of the people in the matter of taxes, and I also defend this because it was a good thing in that they succeeded in obtaining additional information and setting the method of collecting, but there were no successes in the gold and jewelry sales sector. There was a case where there was no form supplied, but 90 million rials were collected.

There was a case where 100,000 rials were declared as taxes, but 8,230,000 rials were collected, there was a case where there was no form, but 114 million rials were collected. Therefore, it is not clear where the rumor arose about collusion with the gold-seller's guild.

Concerning cooperative taxes, he said: As of Shahrivar 1368 [23 August-22 September 1989], 300 million tomans had been collected, and since Shahrivar 1368, meaning in 11 months, 1.3 billion rials have been collected, and since Aban 1368 [23 October-21 November 1989] only 400 assessments have been issued, for about 30 billion tomans (meaning there were three billion rials in six months, and in four months there were 30 billion rials collected).

Dr. Nurbakhsh discussed the limited partnership companies. He said: We wrote a letter to the Money and Credit Council about three months ago concerning the limited partnership companies, asking how these companies are dealt with, and the question of whether we can collect what the people have deposited because if these companies declare bankruptcy, then the government will have to answer to the people.

We have been able to identify about 150 registered limited partnership companies, and we have been able to discuss taxes with about 22 companies, and in any case we decisively designated what is owed in taxes. In some cases we even collected. He added: In the year 1369 you gave a figure of 1,600 billion rials in taxes to collect, and the 100 billion rials in employment taxes is to increase to 200 billion rials.

After the comments by Dr. Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance, a vote was taken on the total National Budget for 1369, and the total bill was passed with a strong majority of deputies, and then discussions began on its details.

Nepal & Bhutan

Prime Minister Shrestha Resigns Amidst Turmoil

Work Stoppage Reported

BK0604012090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1905 GMT 5 Apr 90

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, April 5 (AFP)—Nepalese Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha has resigned in a bid to end this country's political unrest, a high-placed source said late Thursday.

The official announcement of his resignation is expected to be made later Thursday or early Friday, the source said.

The resignation, if confirmed, follows a bloody seven week campaign by opposition activists seeking to abolish the partyless panchayat system and install multiparty democracy in this Himalayan mountain Kingdom.

The high-placed source said Mr. Shrestha held a brief cabinet meeting late Thursday and informed his cabinet ministers of his decision to resign.

Mr. Shrestha, a school teacher by profession, was appointed prime minister in June 1986.

State-run Radio Nepal meanwhile announced that King Birendra would address the nation early Friday in a bid to defuse the political crisis.

The high-placed source said the king was expected to appoint five former premiers and two former chairmen of the national Panchayat, or parliament, to a seven-member interim government which he himself would head.

The high-placed source indicated the possibility of a dissolution of the national Panchayat and moves to liberalize this Kingdom of 18 million inhabitants between India and China.

The king was reportedly urged by three of the former premiers, Surya Bahadur Thapa, Kirti Nidhi Bista and Lokendra Bahadur Chand, and senior Panchayat leaders to remove Mr. Shresthra to defuse the political crisis.

The banned opposition Nepali Congress and the United Leftist Front launched their campaign on February 18 to push for the abolishment of the partyless panchayat system and human rights.

Over 30 people have died and over 100 have suffered serious injuries, while more than 10,000 people have been arrested in the seven weeks of protests, according to opposition sources.

The crisis worsened earlier Thursday with continuing street violence, calls for protest runs on major banks, and key state-run sectors striking in support of the democracy movement.

Authorities also indefinitely closed down nearly all schools throughout the Kathmandu Valley in an apparent bid to avoid further student-led unrest, sources at Tribhuvan University here said.

Leaflets were handed out calling for runs on Nepal's four main banks, including the central Nepal Rastra Bank, to protest the government's alleged use of deposits to pay for a crackdown on the democracy movement.

During the day, a source said some 7.14 million dollar's worth of deposits were removed from bank accounts in a show of support for the campaign.

Employees of several government departments, including roads, civil aviation, forestry and health, as well as workers at several government corporations struck in support of the opposition campaign.

They all strongly denounced police killing in recent days of demonstrators and students in several Kathmandu Valley sites, including Kirtipur and the capital's two satellite towns of Lalitpur and Bhaktapur.

Over 40,000 villagers from outside Kirtipur took part Thursday in a peaceful anti-government demonstration as riot police stood by, witnesses said.

Riot police were seen posted but they did not interfere as the speakers, including Surendra Pandey, president of Tribhuvan University's Tri-Chandra campus and Shanker Pokharel, president of the university's multi-purpose campus, slammed the partyless panchayat system introduced in 1960.

The new agitation followed violent early morning clashes in six Kathmandu districts between riot police and protestors which opposition reports left 12 people injured and more than 90 people arrested in the capital and other cities between Wednesday night and Thursday morning.

Radio Confirms Resignation

BK0604004690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0035 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] The Nepalese prime minister, Mr. Marich Man Singh Shrestha, is reported to have submitted his resignation to King Birendra.

AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent Harish Segon reports that the king is issuing a royal proclamation this morning. Our correspondent understands that King Birendra is likely to announce some changes to deal with the situation arising out of some movement in favor of multiparty system.

The 46-month old Marich Man Singh ministry came to power in June 1986. The ministry was reshuffled on the

first of this month after the foreign minister, Mr. S.K. Upadhyaya, resigned. The steering committee of the Nepalese Rashtriya Panchayat [parliament] yesterday recommended the immediate proclamation of provisions of the Constitution relating to the extraordinary situation and giving the king extraordinary powers. Under its provisions, the king can dissolve the ministry and Rashtriya Panchayat and suspend various articles of the Constitution.

Chand To Form Government

BK0604014690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0138 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 6 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal announced Friday he had dismissed the government of Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha for its failure to maintain law and order in the country.

The king, speaking over state-controlled Radio Nepal, said he had appointed former Premier Lokendra Bahadur Chand to form a new government.

Constitution Committee Formed

BK0604031290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Mr. Lokendra Bahadur Chand has been appointed the new prime minister of Nepal. In a royal proclamation broadcast over Radio Nepal this morning, King Birendra said that the new government headed by Mr. Chand will hold a dialogue with the people having different political ideologies. King Birendra announced the setting up of a Constitution review committee. Another committee will assess damage to life and property in connection with the movement in favor of multiparty system. King Birendra called upon the people to stay united to tide over the present economic difficulties being faced by Nepal. The new government is to call a session of the Rashtriya Panchayat [parliament].

AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent Harish Segon reports that King Birendra dismissed the Marich Mann Singh Shrestha government on the pretext of not being able to meet his constitutional obligations, and to protect the life and property of the people in the present crisis. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Reactions to Government Reshuffle

King Asks for Support

BK0604035290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0343 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 6 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal announced Friday the dismissal of the government of Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha, talks with the opposition and an inquiry into possible political reforms.

But initial reaction from banned political parties was hostile. They said the king had not gone far enough and called for immediate moves towards a multi-party system.

The past seven weeks have seen violent demonstrations by tens of thousands of people in Kathmandu and elsewhere against the country's panchayat system of government in which political parties are banned.

The king, speaking over state-controlled Radio Nepal, said he had appointed former Premier Lokendra Bahadur Chand to form a new government and directed him to start a dialogue with the political opposition to defuse the current crisis.

He was also establishing a constitutional reform commission to report on what type of political reforms would be necessary for the country, and a royal inquiry commission to investigate recent killings by police firing on demonstrators.

The king said that the outgoing Council of Ministers had failed to maintain law and order in the country and protect the life and property of the people.

He expressed the hope that the people of Nepal would give the new government all possible cooperation to maintain law and order and discipline in the country.

He assured the Nepalese people that he was always guided by their aspirations and reminded them that he had held a national referendum in 1980 to ascertain their wishes.

It was that referendum which approved by a narrow majority the continuation of the partyless system introduced in 1960 by King Birendra's father.

King Birendra said Friday that any political system is a means, not an end to progress and prosperity of the people and national development.

Initial reaction to the king's proclamation from leaders of the outlawed political parties, which are officially banned but operate semi-openly, was negative.

A spokesman for the Nepali Congress said, "We would not accept anything less than a multi-party system of government in the country and therefore our seven-week ongoing political movement would be continued vigorously."

In a strongly-worded reaction, a member of the Politburo of the Marxist Nepal Communist Party, Ballaram Upadhyaya, said, "The royal proclamation is yet another attempt to hatch a conspiracy to consolidate the autocratic panchayat system."

"It does not meet at all the objectives of our joint political movement of the Nepali Congress and the United Leftist Front (ULF)", he said, adding, "We will fight on for full-fledged democracy and human rights".

A banned party source said that a senior royal advisor had met the ailing head of the Nepali Congress, Ganesh Man Singh, at Bir Hospital where he is being treated for a urinary infection and sought his opinion about the king's planned move.

Mr. Singh is believed to have reiterated the demands of the outlawed parties.

Sources said the advisor had also met with Manamohan Adhikari, leader of the Nepal Communist Party, who demanded the dissolution of the National Panchayat (Parliament), formation of an interim all-party government and fresh elections on a multi-party basis.

Opposition Dialogue Sought

OW0604032190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0245 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 6 KYODO—Nepal's King Birendra on Friday sacked Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha for failing to keep law and order in the mountain nation.

The sacking follows several weeks of clashes across the country between police and demonstrators supporting a compaign for multiparty democracy.

The 45-year-old monarch took the step as the 18 million people Kingdom braced itself for a nationwide general strike called by proponents of the campaign to further press their demand.

In a royal proclamation at 6:45 a.m. Friday the king said the Shrestha administration has failed in its responsibility to maintain law and order in the Kingdom, leading to loss of lives and property.

Shrestha submitted his resignation to King Birendra on Wednesday evening, government sources said.

The monarch also announced that a dialogue will be started with opposition leaders and a commission will be formed to suggest changes in the Constitution.

A commission will also be formed to look into the excesses committed by the Shrestha administration, the king said.

Dialogue Call Rejected

OW0604080790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0746 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 6 KYODO—Opposition leaders who have called for a nationwide campaign in favor of a multiparty system Friday rejected a proposal from Nepal's King Birendra for dialogue.

Opposition leader Ganesh Man Singh was quoted by his associates as saying the king should bear responsibility for the situation and that if the opposition movement turned against the king, no one but the king would be to blame.

Singh said the opposition will not settle for anything less than a direct announcement of multiparty democracy.

Earlier in the morning, the king issued a royal proclamation in which he invoked emergency powers to deal with recent unrest and gave the task of forming a new Council of Ministers to 50-year-old Lokendra Bahadur Chand, who served as prime minister between 1983-86.

Although the capital was quiet immediately following the king's announcement, the adjoining districts of Lalitpur and Bhaktapur were reportedly shut down in response to a call by opposition leaders for a nationwide strike.

Late Thursday, the 45-year-old king sacked Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha for failing to keep law and order in the mountain nation, where clashes between police and protesters have erupted during the past several weeks.

The king's retention of the prime minister in a cabinet reshuffle earlier in the week was sharply criticized by figures spanning Nepal's political spectrum, as critics blamed him for suppressing pro-democracy dissidents.

Twenty people have been killed, according to the government's official count. But the unofficial death toll runs as high as 40 in the campaign for political pluralism that first erupted in violence on February 18.

Claim 'Successful' Strike

BK0604091590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] The banned Nepali Congress and the United Left Front, which are spearheading the movement in favor of the multiparty system in Nepal, have rejected King Birendra's offer for a dialogue with the new government headed by Mr. Lokendra Bahadur Chand to solve the present crisis.

Protest demonstrations continued in various parts of the country in favor of the multiparty system and human rights. A bundh [strike] is being observed in the entire Kingdom today. Organizers of the bundh—the United National People's Movement—claim that the bundh is complete and successful so far. All India Radio Kathmandu correspondent, Harish Segon, reports that the capital city wears a deserted look with the markets closed and transport off the road.

In a statement in Kathmandu, the leader of Nepali Congress, Mr. Ganesh Man Singh, said that the movement in favor of the multiparty system will be further intensified.

As already reported, the king has dismissed the Marich Man Singh Shrestha government, saying that it has failed in its constitutional obligations and could not protect the life and property of the people in the present crisis. In his royal proclamation broadcast over Radio Nepal this morning, King Birendra announced the formation of a

new government under the prime ministership of Mr. Chand. He said the new government will hold a dialogue with the people having different ideologies. The king also announced the setting up of a Constitution review committee.

Government Change Does Not Impede Demonstrations

200,000 at Kathmandu Rally

BK0604103290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1016 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Kathmandu, April 6 (AFP)—More than 200,000 demonstrators from Kathmandu and Lalitpur marched to the centre of the capital Friday [6 April] to denounce the 30-year-old panchayat system, despite the sacking overnight of Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha and his government.

Witnesses said the demonstration was peaceful, with banners calling for the removal of the panchayat system of non-party politics and demanding the revival of multi-party politics and human rights. [passage omitted]

Reports reaching here from elsewhere in the country said large protest rallies had also been held in Pokhara, 225 kilometres (150 miles) to the west, in Chitwan, 90 kilometres (55 miles) south, in Palpa and Biratnagar.

Diplomats in the capital were said to be scared to venture out in their official cars, while senior officials were forced to walk to their offices, witnesses said.

Friday's strike also stopped public and private buses. During earlier strikes in February and March, the government managed to run public buses and some private taxis to weaken the strike and encourage people to go to work, but on Friday there was no government to make such policy decisions as none of the new office holders had been officially appointed.

In several hotels here, tourists were locked in their rooms, apparently fearing injury from police baton charges or stones pelted at police by the demonstrators, hoteliers said.

Sources close to Prime Minister-Designate Lokendra Bahadur Chand said he was considering releasing all political leaders arrested before or during the seven weeks of opposition demonstrations since February 18.

This gesture was aimed at pacifying activists from the banned parties and raised hopes for a negotiated solution to the current political crisis.

In his morning announcement over state-controlled Radio Nepal, King Birendra said he had directed Mr. Chand to initiate dialogue with the political opposition to defuse the current crisis and set up a royal inquiry commission to investigate recent killings by police firing on demonstrators.

He said he would also establish a constitutional reform commission to report on what type of political reforms would be necessary for the country.

The past seven weeks have seen violent demonstrations by tens of thousands of people in Kathmandu and elsewhere against the country's panchayat system of government in which political parties are banned.

The king expressed the hope that the people of Nepal would cooperate with Mr. Chand's new government to maintain law and order and discipline.

Former Education Minister Keshar Bahadur Bista said, "His majesty's royal proclamation is an indirect declaration of the multi party".

"The banned party should agree to hold a dialogue with the Chand government for the modality of the future course of political system of the country," he added.

Mr. Chand told reporters he would initiate dialogue to defuse the current crisis and safeguard public life and property.

But multi-party campaigners have rejected any dialogue with any government unless the panchayat system is dissolved.

Protests Throughout Kingdom

OW0604090190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0851 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 6 KYODO—Tens of thousands of Nepalese staged demonstrations at different parts of the Kingdom calling for immediate end to the nonparty panchayat political system Friday even as King Birendra said he will initiate a dialogue with the opposition for political changes.

Inhabitants of Kathmandu marched in processions shouting slogans such as "We want democracy" and "Down with the panchayat system."

Opposition leaders rejected the king's proposal for dialogue.

The demonstrators clashed with the police at various places.

At one place some 200 lawyers and legal workers were arrested as they defied the police order to disperse.

Effigies of the panchayat system patronized by King Birendra were burnt at several streets.

A huge crowd of demonstrators from Kathmandu marched to the adjoining city of Lalitpur where they were lustily cheered.

The crowd waving flags of banned political parties also raised slogans such as "Death to Marich man" (Prime Minister Shrestha till Friday morning) and "The royal announcement is a deceit."

They were referring to King Birendra's announcement Friday morning in which he agreed to introduce reforms in the political system.

The demonstrators were to converge with other protesters here Friday afternoon.

Police opened fire to handle crowds of protesters at three places in the western resort town of Pokhara and in Chitwan in the southwest Friday, reports reaching here said.

Meanwhile, life in the country was virtually paralyzed by the total closure called to protest suppression of the democratic movement.

There were no flights in and out of Kathmandu and streets were empty of cars and buses.

'Peaceful' Kirtipur Gathering

BK0604003590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1700 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 5 (AFP)—Over 40,000 Nepalese villagers from outside Kirtipur took part late Thursday in a peaceful anti-government demonstration as riot police stood by, witnesses said.

The demonstrators were carrying black protest flags and banners of the outlawed Nepalese Congress Party and seven left-wing parties.

The demonstrators gathered in the Kathmandu Valley town of Kirtipur to hear former village chief, Ramesh Maharjan, who recently resigned to protest the government repression, and other opposition figures address the rally.

Riot police were seen posted but they did not interfere as the speakers, including Surendra Pandey, president of Tribhuvan University's Tri-Chandra campus and Shanker Pokharel, president of the university's multipurpose campus, slammed the partyless panchayat system introduced in 1960.

Mr. Maharjan said the "people of Kirtipur have no more love and respect for the panchayat system which has turned like a man-eater tiger, terrorizing the public."

The protest came as the political situation deteriorated in the Kathmandu Valley with continuing street violence, calls for protest runs on major banks, and key state-run sectors striking in support of the democracy movement.

Authorities have also indefinitely closed down nearly all schools throughout the Kathmandu Valley in an apparent bid to avoid further student-led unrest, sources at Tribhuvan University here said.

Leaflets were handed out here Thursday calling for runs on Nepal's four main banks, including the central Nepal Rastra Bank, to protest the government's alleged use of deposits to pay for a crackdown on the democracy movement.

The new agitation followed violent early morning clashes in six Kathmandu districts between riot police and protestors which opposition reports left 12 people injured and more than 90 people arrested in the capital and other cities between Wednesday night and Thursday morning. Official confirmation was unavailable.

Kathmandu Protest for Democracy

BK0604084890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0827 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 6 (AFP)—At least 90,000 people took to the streets Friday [6 April] to call for a return to multi-party democracy, witnesses said, despite the sacking overnight of Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha and his government.

Witnesses said the demonstration was peaceful, with banners calling for the removal of the panchayat system of non-party politics.

Among the demonstrators were high school and college students and banned party activists carrying their respective banners, including the Nepal Communist Party's hammer and sickle and the four-starred red and white emblem of the Nepali Congress.

Others carried the black flags which have become identified with the protest movement and shouted "We want democracy," "Down with the fascist panchayat system" and "Police and public are one".

The march followed an announcement early in the morning that King Birendra had dismissed Mr. Shrestha's government for failing to maintain law and order in the country.

Riot police were posted at all the city's major intersections but they stood silently and watched the demonstrators without interfering, witneses said. Police had appealed to the demonstrators to refrain from violence.

Earlier in the morning, demonstrators and riot police clashed in different areas and police fired teargas to disperse several rallies, witnesses said.

Hundreds of people from the nearby towns of Lalitpur and Kirtipur were reported to be heading towards Kathmandu for a planned demonstration and public meeting either in the open air theatre or in Basantpur Square in the heart of Kathmandu.

For the first time since the current protest movement was launched on February 18, all three cities—

Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur—with a combined population of more than one million people, staged a total strike from early morning Friday.

Two Killed in Butwal

BK0604100890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0957 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 6 (AFP)—Riot police clashed with more than 10,000 demonstrators in Butwal township, 260 kilometres (160 miles) west of here Friday [6 April], killing at least two people and injuring seven others, reports received here said.

According to the reports, more than 10,000 demonstrators shouting anti-Panchayat slogans and demanding the return of multi-party politics clashed with police, who responded with teargas shells and baton-charges.

When the demonstrators became violent police opened fire, killing at least two people and injuring seven others, the reports said.

Jivan Sharma died immediately after being hit by a bullet and Dilip Shrestha died on the way to hospital, they said.